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# Latin America Report

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11 January 1984

## LATIN AMERICA REPORT

## CONTENTS

## COUNTRY SECTION

## ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Finance Minister Calls for U.S., Canada Security Shield<br>(THE WORKERS VOICE, 26 Nov 83) ..... | 1  |
| Alleged Hector-Bishop Meeting in '76 Draws Reaction<br>(Various sources, various dates) .....   | 2  |
| OUTLET Denial<br>Grenadian Journalist's Story<br>ATLU Blast at Hector                           |    |
| Invasion of Grenada, Detractors Criticized in Press<br>(Various sources, various dates) .....   | 6  |
| Attack on U.S. Role<br>Slap at CCC, Singh   |    |
| Bird Again Rapped by ACLM for 'Alarming' Public Debt<br>(OUTLET, 11 Nov 83) .....               | 12 |

## BARBADOS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Grenada Aftermath Brings Variety of Reactions, Assessments<br>(Various sources, various dates) .....   | 15 |
| Adams in Assembly Debate<br>DLP Backing<br>Adams on Cuban Plot<br>Warning to Journalists<br>Criticism of Guyana<br>Haynes Call for Inquiry<br>Call for Defense Reassessment<br>Adams' Clarifications<br>Adams on Defense Force |    |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Adams' Row With Trinidad-Tobago Sparks Reaction<br>(Various sources, 16 Nov 83) .....                    | 22 |
| Haynes Attack  |    |
| Taitt Call for Apology   |    |
| Threat to Joint Projects   |    |
| St John Denial   |    |
| Additional St John Remarks   |    |
| Adams' Response to Criticism   |    |
| Bank Head Sees No Danger in Jamaican Devaluation<br>(THE NATION, 25 Nov 83) .....                        | 26 |
| Guyanese Journalist Singh Given New Deportation Deadline<br>(BARBADOS ADVOCATE, 17 Nov 83) .....         | 28 |
| BELIZE   |    |
| Economist Cited on Alleged Cuban Arms Shipments Through Belize<br>(Various sources, various dates) ..... | 29 |
| Use of Southern Route  |    |
| Salvadoran Plane Incident  |    |
| Israel Helps Guatemala With Arms Manufacturing<br>(DISWEEK, 18 Nov 83) .....                             | 31 |
| Paper Reiterates Its Neutrality, Scores U.S. 'Puppets'<br>(Editorial; DISWEEK, 18 Nov 83) .....          | 32 |
| British Official's Visit May Indicate Troop Pullout Rethink<br>(THE REPORTER, 13 Nov 83) .....           | 35 |
| Charges Exchanged as City Council Election Draws Closer<br>(Various sources, various dates) .....        | 36 |
| Right-Left Split in Mayor's Fall   |    |
| UDP on PUP Infighting  |    |
| Slap at UDP, Editorial   |    |
| PUP Manifesto  |    |
| PUP Convention   |    |
| UDP Manifesto  |    |
| 'Illegal' Action by Elections Officer  |    |
| Belmopan 'Stonewalling'  |    |
| Attempts on Aikman's Life  |    |
| Campaign Violence  |    |
| Charge Against PUP Candidate   |    |
| Christian Democratic Party Comments on Defense Policy<br>(TOLEDO STAR, 13 Nov 83) .....                  | 48 |



|   |    |
|---|----|
| TOLEDO STAR Takes Poke at 'Communist' Paper DISWEEK<br>(TOLEDO STAR, 13 Nov 83) .....                                 | 49 |
| Paraquat Spraying To Destroy Marijuana Condemned<br>(Editorial; THE REPORTER, 20 Nov 83) .....                        | 50 |
| Briefs  |    |
| Employment Survey .....   | 53 |
| BRAZIL  |    |
| Figueiredo Visit to Algeria May Double Trade<br>(Marielza Augelli; O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 22 Nov 83) ....             | 54 |
| Polish Ship Purchased To Alleviate Debt Problem<br>(O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 3 Dec 83) .....                            | 57 |
| November Inflation at 8.4 Percent; Pastore Forecast Reported<br>(O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, various dates) .....          | 59 |
| Analysis of Inflation<br>Inflation To Remain High   |    |
| CACEX Head Foresees Surplus of \$6.4 Billion<br>(O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 7 Dec 83) .....                               | 62 |
| CACEX Official Views 1984 \$9 Billion Surplus Goal as Viable<br>(O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 7 Dec 83) .....               | 64 |
| Poll Shows Direct Elections Favored as Solution to Crisis<br>(O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 2 Dec 83) .....                  | 65 |
| Rising Influence of Congress Since 1982 Elections Discussed<br>(Sergio Chacon; O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 7 Dec 83) ..... | 68 |
| Electoral Support of Presidential Hopefuls Evaluated<br>(Rubem de Azevedo Lima; FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, 16 Nov 83) ..     | 72 |
| PCB Head Views Government Employment Plan as Ineffective<br>(FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, 25 Nov 83) .....                     | 75 |
| Direct Elections Theme Dominates PMDB Convention<br>(FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, 5 Dec 83) .....                              | 77 |
| Belt-Tightening of Sao Paulo's Middle Class Discussed<br>(Cecilia Pires; FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, 4 Dec 83) .....          | 82 |
| Netto Denies New Maxidevaluation; Duratex Official Comments<br>(Various sources, various dates) .....                 | 86 |
| Minister's Statement<br>Laerte Setubal's Prediction   |    |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| PRC Interest in Joint Ventures, Technology Sharing Discussed<br>(O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 8 Dec 83) .....               | 88  |
| Sao Paulo Security Concerns Outnumber Those in Rio de Janeiro<br>(O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, 7 Dec 83) .....              | 89  |
| Briefs  |     |
| Nuclear Submarine Use Defended  | 92  |
| Missile Technology Talks  | 92  |
| Prestes on Direct Elections   | 92  |
| BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS  |     |
| Election Result: VIP, United Party Miss Council Majority<br>(THE ISLAND SUN, 12 Nov 83) .....                         | 94  |
| Balance of Power With Independent<br>Proposal for Reform, Editorial   |     |
| Briefs  |     |
| Airport Terminal Extension  | 96  |
| COLOMBIA  |     |
| M-19 Commando Arrested in Yumbo Municipality<br>(Felio Augusto Plazas; EL TIEMPO, 7 Dec 83) .....                     | 97  |
| Briefs  |     |
| Leftists Form United Front  | 99  |
| Soviet, Romanian Trolleys   | 99  |
| CUBA  |     |
| Documentary on Grenada Directed at U.S. Public Opinion<br>(Rigoberto Lopez Interview; GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW, 4 Dec 83) | 100 |
| DOMINICA  |     |
| Paper Sees New Harmony Stemming From Grenada Developments<br>(Editorial; THE NEW CHRONICLE, 26 Nov 83) .....          | 102 |
| Manufacturers Act To Pool Resources, Address Problems<br>(THE NEW CHRONICLE, 26 Nov 83) .....                         | 104 |
| Briefs  |     |
| Banana Payments   | 105 |
| ST CHRISTOPHER - NEVIS  |     |
| Paper Blasts Labor Spokesman for 'Lies' About Tax Act<br>(Editorial; THE DEMOCRAT, 19 Nov 83) .....                   | 106 |

|   |  |     |
|---|--|-----|
| Briefs  |  |     |
| Ideal Refinery Conditions                                     |  | 108 |
| ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES                                 |  |     |
| Paper Criticizes Government Inefficiency on Variety of Fronts |  |     |
| (Editorial; THE VINCENTIAN, 25 Nov 83) .....                  |  | 109 |
| SURINAME  |  |     |
| Background on Expulsion of Cuban Diplomats                    |  |     |
| (Peter Schumacher; NRC HANDELSBLAD, 6 Dec 83) .....           |  | 111 |
| Former Bouterse Advisor on Cuban, Brazilian Ties              |  |     |
| (Rudy Kross Interview; NRC HANDELSBLAD, 7 Dec 83) .....       |  | 114 |
| Briefs  |  |     |
| Military Police Chief Promoted                                |  | 120 |
| Bouterse Meets Trade Union Leaders                            |  | 120 |
| Foreign Affairs Ministry Changes                              |  | 120 |
| Guda Named Ambassador to UN                                   |  | 121 |
| Guyanese Church Leader Visits Suriname                        |  | 121 |

## FINANCE MINISTER CALLS FOR U.S., CANADA SECURITY SHIELD

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 26 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] Cde. John St. Luce, speaking in Parliament on the 'Grenada Resolution, has suggested that the O.E.C.S. should initiate talks with either Canada or the U.S.A. with the view of arriving at some form of association whereby these tiny islands can be assured of some form of military protection and a guarantee of their economic survival. [as published] Cde. St. Luce the Minister of Finance in the ALP Government said that some persons may not like what he was suggesting, but being a practical man he was very concerned at what could happen to the OEC States if Trinidad opted out of Caricom and Jamaica decided to do likewise.

The LDC's, which depend to a large extent on both Trinidad and Jamaica for their export markets, have been adversely affected recently by the trade and monetary restrictions imposed by those countries. Jamaica introduced a two-tier monetary system, and Trinidad imposed a licensing restriction on goods imported in that country from the O.E.S. Safeguards were also introduced by the central bank of Trinidad and Tobago in order to control foreign currency. Because of the adverse effect this latter policy had on manufactures in Trinidad & Tobago it was later eased up on.

Cde. St. Luce said that there was no way in which these tiny islands would be able to defend themselves from the simplest attack from abroad, so he saw the only salvation as being able to arrange some sort of accommodation with the U.S.A. or Canada without having to give up their sovereignty altogether.

This newspaper fully supports the views of Cde. St. Luce.

CSO: 3298/237

## ALLEGED HECTOR-BISHOP MEETING IN '76 DRAWS REACTION

## OUTLET Denial

St Johns OUTLET in English 11 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] The Bird administration on Friday, 4th November, 1983, repeatedly broadcast over Radio and Television a "news" story stating that ACLM Chairman Tim Hector attended a meeting in St Lucia, in 1976, at an off-shore island named Rat Island. There, according to the Bird regime, Tim Hector, the late Maurice Bishop, and George Odlum "plotted" the Grenada revolution in 1979, and laid "a plot" to overthrow the Bird regime in 1976. The Bird regime claimed in its news broadcast that this news story appeared in an article in the WALL STREET JOURNAL of November 3.

No such story appeared in the WALL STREET JOURNAL either on November 3 or any other date.

The news story on Radio and TV was a complete fabrication, deliberately broadcast and telecast by the corrupt Bird regime to discredit Tim Hector and ACLM in particular.

The fabrication by the Bird regime claimed that Tim Hector and ACLM made this plot to overthrow the Bird regime "while it was settling down after winning the 1976 Elections".

ACLM Chairman never visited St Lucia in 1976. No meeting was held at Rat Island involving Caribbean Groups in 1976. In 1970 a meeting of Black Power groups was held at Rat Island in St Lucia, and Tim Hector was banned by the St Lucia government from entering St Lucia. THE ANTIGUA STAR headlined the story.

The Bird regime made up this false story, asserting that the "prestigious WALL STREET JOURNAL" carried this news. On not a single page of the WALL STREET JOURNAL is there a mention of Tim Hector, ACLM nor Antigua. The Bird regime concocted this rubbish.

Peculiarly, the government newspaper, the WORKERS VOICE, did not reprint the false story which they said appeared in the WALL STREET JOURNAL. The lie was deliberate, and intended to fan the anti-communist hysteria in the wake of the Grenada invasion.

The Bird regime not only broadcasts and telecasts lies, but has to fabricate lies, claim they were in "a prestigious New York Newspaper", in order to try to discredit Tim Hector and ACLM.

Mr Hector has instructed his lawyers to file a suit against the management and announcers of the Radio and Television stations which carried the Bird regime's total falsehood. The Bird regime has been exposed in OUTLET, with numerous revelations of corruption, and is desperately seeking to use the Grenada crisis and invasion, in whatever way, using any lie against ACLM.

#### Grenadian Journalist's Story

St Johns OUTLET in English 18 Nov 83 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister Vere Bird is making a song and dance about an article in the WALL STREET JOURNAL.

First both Radio stations and TV announced that the article appeared in the "November 3rd issue of the prestigious WALL STREET JOURNAL". OUTLET acquired a copy of the November 3rd WALL STREET JOURNAL and found no such article, in the November 3rd issue of the WALL STREET JOURNAL.

PM Bird announced in parliament that the article was written on November 1st and not November 3rd. What he never said, and dared not say, was who the article was written by.

The article was written by Albert Xavier. The same WALL STREET JOURNAL describes Xavier as "the former Editor of Grenada's TORCHLIGHT".

In 1979 the Bishop Revolutionary Government closed the TORCHLIGHT for the lies it was printing. The TORCHLIGHT under Xavier's editorship claimed among other things that there were missiles in Grenada!

In the article Xavier claims that "Off the western coast of St Lucia lies a rocky islet named Rat Island. It was here in 1976 that Maurice Bishop, and Bernard Coard of Grenada, George Odlum of St Lucia and Tim Hector of Antigua" and others met "to plan the future of the Caribbean."

Note he does not say when in 1976 this meeting took place. But then writes Xavier "The meeting provoked little attention". How could that be? How could Maurice Bishop, Bernard Coard, George Odlum, meet in St Lucia and the Government of St Lucia not be aware! Xavier provides this excuse for his fictitious meeting "the Government of St Lucia was facing a General Election and was too busy to bother." How could any government, in an election year be too busy not to note the presence of a number "leftists" in its territory at the height of electioneering? [as published] But every public liar is quickly hoisted on his own petard. Xavier said that that the government of St Lucia in 1976 was facing a "General Election and was too busy". [as published] There were no General Elections in St Lucia in 1976. St Lucia had General elections in 1974 and 1979. Xavier falsifies history to purvey his falsehoods.

But Xavier exposes himself clearly when he writes in the very same article the following:

"In November 1979, Mr Bishop called his first meeting--a successor to the Rat Island Conference. The participants in that meeting were drawn from St Lucia, Dominica and, of course, Grenada. The conferees signed what they called "The St George's Accord."

Now please note that Xavier gives a date of the meeting. He says it took place "In November 1979" whereas for the fictitious meeting on Rat Island he says "In 1976", no month, nor date. He could not say in what month, because no such meeting took place. Noticably, John Compton, again the Prime Minister of St Lucia has kept silent about this alleged meeting.

But Xavier is even worse. This November 1979 meeting "was the successor to the Rat Island meeting" but Antigua, or "Tim Hector of Antigua" is not there this time. The truth was that this November 1979, meeting was a meeting between the governments of St Lucia, Dominica, and Grenada, which was attended by Prime Minister Louisy, of St Lucia, Prime Minister Seraphin, and Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. At the end of that meeting the three governments signed "The St Georges Declaration." Among the points in the St Georges Declaration, was that nationals could travel among the three islands without passports.

But note, Xavier never said this was a meeting of governments. Note, he said that the meeting was the successor "to the Rat Island Conference." So it was governments who were subverting the region! Poor Xavier. Then Xavier the liar he always was, exposes himself completely, after making his American readers believe that "leftists" were meeting on Rat Island, had a "successor meeting" and then says Xavier, this article of the St Georges Declaration not requiring a passport for travel "was exploited by those in the communist network as a means of deploring their forces in a more uniform fashion throughout the islands." [as published]

So the reader gets the impression "that forces were deployed". The use of the words "forces" and "deployed" suggests only one thing--military forces. But note these forces were deployed "in a more uniform fashion, throughout the islands." Not the three islands in which no passports were needed for travel but "throughout the islands". The nonsense exposes itself. Xavier is not even clever, not even a two-bit journalist. He is just a cheap hack.

And why did he write this vulgar stuff, Xavier himself tells us in his opening paragraph "The Reagan Administration has come under fire from certain quarters for its participation in the invasion of Grenada." So Xavier, has taken up the task of defending the Reagan administration and wishes to "prove" that there was "a plan to subvert the elected governments of the Eastern Caribbean." Therefore to use his own words he "hatches" a meeting on Rat Island and then distorts a meeting of governments into the "successor" conference of leftists. Xavier is the only Rat, who was conferring with himself on Rat Island to write this rubbish to defend Reagan and Bird.



## ATLU Blast at Hector

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 23 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] Hector, OUTLET and the A.C.L.M. are really under extreme pressure for the last couple of weeks. Comrade Leader had a field day in Parliament when introducing the Resolution on Grenada. He was able to produce documents in order to substantiate all accusations made against the communists A.C.L.M. The P.M. knew that the nails were in the coffins of all leftist movements in the islands since Manley's defeat in Jamaica at the last General Elections and they drove them in further.

The Communists were under so much pressure that the OUTLET denied the allegation made by the Govt. that an article appearing in the prestigious WALL STREET JOURNAL on Nov. 1st 1983, stating that Hector and some of his fellow communists met on Rat Island off the coast of St. Lucia, in order to plan the violent overthrow of these small defenseless islands. Hector even threatened to take the Govt. to court saying that at no time in any issue of the WALL STREET JOURNAL has such an article appeared.

You could imagine Hector's feelings when the P.M. produced not one, but several copies of the JOURNAL with the article and promised to send Timbolo a copy. [as published]

Antigua's No. "One" Liar has been caught lying again!

CSO: 3298/237



## INVASION OF GRENADA, DETRACTORS CRITICIZED IN PRESS

## Attack on U.S. Role

St Johns OUTLET in English 28 Oct 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] The U.S. led invasion of the 133 square mile island of Grenada at 6.40 a.m. on Tuesday October 25, 1983, was a flagrant aggression by a big power on a tiny nation, and a total violation of international law, namely, the U.N. Charter, the OAS treaty and the OECS treaty.

The US invasion has been condemned by all major countries, including West Germany, USSR, France, Canada, Cuba, Venezuela, India, Syria, China, Nicaragua, Sweden and a wide variety of countries across the political spectrum. The Caribbean Conference of Churches in a courageous statement strongly condemned the U.S. invasion and the violation of CARICOM and OECS treaties which the participation of seven Caribbean States involved.

The seven Caribbean nations--Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St Kitts, St Vincent, and St Lucia violated their own OECS treaty under which they claimed to act by making war on Grenada, itself a Commonwealth Caribbean Nation and a member of CARICOM and the OECS. Maurice Bishop himself had signed the OECS treaty on behalf of Grenada. No one, anywhere would believe, that Maurice Bishop, late Prime Minister of Grenada, who was always conscious of an impending U.S. invasion of his country, would ever sign a treaty, which in any circumstances, would have legally permitted an invasion of his country, by other OECS countries in consort with U.S. marines.

So serious is this violation of international law by the US and OECS States, together with Jamaica and Barbados that the Thatcher Government in Britain, normally an obsequious Reagan ally, openly and publicly rejected the U.S. led invasion of Grenada. The U.S. had assembled a massive force of 1,800 marines with all the modern and massive conventional weapons of war. All of which were directed not against the murderous military Junta but against the Grenadian people.

After all, the U.S. lives with, and assists, far more barbarous regimes than the Coard-Austin military junta, such as Pinochet in Chile, or Duvalier in neighbouring Haiti. After the old story about protecting American lives and property could not stick Reagan had his political

Second Lady, Dominica's PM Eugenia Charles, who appeared with him at Press Conference told another lie to justify the invasion. Ms Charles said that Grenada's Governor General Sir Paul Scoon asked for U.S. help. The fact is Governor General Scoon has no Executive power, and as the Queen's Representative could only have called on the British Government for help. Britain, of course, would have none of it.

Britain went further. It publicly stated it had been deceived by Antigua and other OECS States, and claimed they "were less than frank" in their discussions with Britain. Britain on Wednesday 26 October, ordered "a high level review of its relations with the Caribbean states involved". This could mean a cutback in aid and other diplomatic moves.

Even after Reagan's support for Thatcher in the recent Falklands War, Thatcher felt constrained not to support Reagan's invasion of Grenada. Not so Antigua.

One of the most painful oddities in the U.S. naked aggression against tiny Grenada is how the U.S. used, co-opted and coerced the seven Caribbean States to provide its long-planned invasion plan of Grenada, with the fig leaf of a "multinational force". Antigua sent 16 soldiers as part of the invading force. To date P.M. Bird has not even told the nation that he dispatched their sons to war.

For a start, Antigua and other Caribbean States said they acted from "a perceived threat to the security of the region," and intended to "restore parliamentary democracy in Grenada". Yet none of the Caribbean nations had sought parliamentary approval to engage in war against a fellow Commonwealth, CARICOM and OECS country. Yet they were restoring Parliamentary democracy in Grenada, by war, without parliamentary approval.

Worse, having passed diplomatic and economic sanctions against Grenada, having used the extreme sanction of "cutting all air and sea links with Grenada" on Sunday last, Antigua and the other six Caribbean nations did not even allow the sanctions to work, but resorted first to the use of force, by war against Grenada on Tuesday.

Very definitely something is wrong here. Trinidad's Prime Minister Chambers bitterly complained in an address to Parliament that as Current Chairman of CARICOM he was deceived by other members who had agreed to trade sanctions, yet there was no hint that in the Sunday CARICOM meeting of Heads of Government that they intended to make war on Tuesday against Grenada, far less "invite" the U.S. in this naked aggression against a small sister island.

The root of all this deception of everyone from the Queen, to Parliaments and People lies in a plot, hatched by the U.S. and in which Antigua and the other six Caribbean nations flagrantly violated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Grenada. And, which invasion, ACLM denounced as "a brazen act of international terrorism, which lets loose anarchy on the Caribbean and the world".

More than three months ago, the United States took the decision "at the highest level" with the confirmation of its national Security Council to use force against leftist regimes Grenada and Nicaragua in the region. The American Ambassador to France issued a statement confirming that the Grenada invasion was planned at least two weeks before the death of its Revolutionary leader Prime Minister Maurice Bishop--whose cruel murder, Reagan of all persons, claimed to be the reason behind the invasion. Infernal Hypocrite!

The Grenadian invasion plan was set in motion first as political destabilisation when local CIA plants in the Grenada Revolutionary Government, believed to be principally Selwyn Strachan, formerly Minister of Mobilisation, to foment the leadership struggle into a clear political division. The U.S. did not however plan to seek the death of Maurice Bishop. It intended political destabilisation and intended to use the leadership struggle between Bishop and Coard to break the unity of the Grenadian people.

The savage murders of Maurice Bishop and other top leaders of the Revolution provided the U.S. with its moment to "move forward plans" for the US invasion of Grenada.

When this decision was taken, U.S. officials contacted Seaga, Bird, Adams and informed them of the invasion plan. When the OECS leaders assembled in Barbados on Friday and Saturday last, they were surprisingly joined by Jamaica's Prime Minister Seaga, and U.S. Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Mr Milan Bish. What was Bish doing there in a meeting of Caribbean leaders and OECS leaders in particular. Just what? The plot unfolds.

Bish sat next to Seaga. A scholarly presentation was made to the assembled regional leaders by an invited scholar-consultant, who showed conclusively that a military invasion of Grenada had no basis in law, and would be in violation of all existing treaties. The invasion plan was in the balance.

Both Bish and Seaga intervened after the International Relations Consultant made his presentation, to dismiss the arguments and to urge that what was needed was a letter from the OECS States "inviting" the US to mount the invasion of Grenada with them.

Meanwhile, Ron Sanders, Foreign Minister Lester Bird's alter-ego, who was specially flown from London to Barbados for the meeting, said to Foreign Minister Lester Bird "Seaga and Bish are white men. They would want us blacks to destroy one another, and so they are urging us to war with Grenada. We not in that." [as published]

Lester Bird remained glum, stern and taciturn. Ron Sanders who had prepared a paper against a military invasion of Grenada, in which he no doubt had the advice of Commonwealth Secretary-General Sonny Ramphal--his father-in-law, waited for Lester to intervene in the meeting and present the paper.

To the surprise of all the Caribbean leaders and delegates present, particularly a representative of a Windward Island who spoke to OUTLET, Lester

Bird, the chatterbox of the Caribbean, remained absolutely silent. After the Bish-Seaga intervention and for the rest of the meeting. Not a word said he. Not one.

The letter of "invitation" which the U.S. asked for from the OECS was presumably written by P.M. Eugenia Charles, who, insiders say, came to the meeting with a U.S. draft of the proposed letter of invitation. Some discussion followed on the letter and then it was signed.

Antigua's Deputy PM and Foreign Minister Lester Bird signed the letter the U.S. requested, "inviting" them to join Caribbean nations in an invasion of Grenada without a murmur. Ron Sanders was furious.

Lester Bird, appearing grumpy and embittered, explained to Ron that he had got his "instructions" from PM Bird, and the only protest he could make was "to say nothing" so that the historical record would not show him "as speaking in justification of so dastardly and brazen an act of aggression against a sister Caribbean State."

Ron Sanders bitterly expressed his disappointment about Lester, to other diplomatic friends, labelling Lester as a "thorough ass" to go along with such "instructions" from "old man Bird", whom he said had sold out to the US in search of dollars to prop up a collapsed economy. The plot thickens.

The OECS leaders having "written" their requested letter inviting the US "to join them" in the invasion then journeyed to Trinidad for a Caribbean Heads of CARICOM, Summit. The little war-mongers never mentioned their letter of "invitation" to the U.S. and never said a word about their Grenada invasion plans. PM George Chambers publicly confirmed this low-down deception.

Lester Bird immediately on leaving the meeting in Trinidad and arriving back in Antigua, reported to PM V. C. Bird and 16 Antiguan soldiers were despatched at 2:25 on LIAT for the invasion force assembling in Barbados. No parliamentary approval was sought for the war with Grenada. Cabinet assembled and approved after the Antiguan soldiers were sent. Hugh Marshall, who had voiced his disapproval, was not invited to the extraordinary Cabinet meeting. Later, fearing that Bird would fire him he threatened resignation first. Then he withdrew his objections to the Grenada war.

The seven Caribbean nations hope to get lavish U.S. Aid from the U.S. to bail out their economies. Jamaica is reported to have failed the IMF performance tests, and further loans were to be suspended.

Joining the invasion it will get the continued assistance from IMF and more U.S. blood money. For the past three years, Jamaica has received U.S.\$300 million in U.S. Aid, but the economy has still slumped badly.

U.S. blood money is the only reason for the Caribbean nations participation in the naked aggression, and their pathetic excuse about "a perceived

threat to the region from Grenada" was so much baloney, concocted to justify U.S. aggression against their own Caribbean people. [as published]

The blood of all the dead Grenadians is on their hands. They are as reprehensible as the murderous Coard-Austin military junta which provided the U.S. with the excuse of ridding Grenada of what Reagan described as "Leftist thugs". Thugs yes, but no one, no power, has the right to remove the government of another sovereign country.

Notably, the resistance, the stubborn resistance, of the heroic Grenadian people, in spite of the shock that had assailed them with the death of their beloved Revolutionary leader, stunned the United States war-mongers. The 600 Cuban air-port workers, citizens of the Caribbean heroically held their own.

Otherwise it was a terrible shame. A terrible shame to see seven Caribbean nations, join with the U.S., the biggest war machine in the entire history of man, against a tiny 133 square mile spice island with a population of 110,000 souls. It was the most shameful and macabre time in modern Caribbean history. History will not absolve those Caribbean leaders who brought untold shame on us for the filthy 30 pieces of silver--to be called US aid.

Those who sow the wind will, as sure as night follows day, reap the whirlwind.

Slap at CCC, Singh

St Johns THE WORKERS VOICE in English 16 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] The C.C.C. (Caribbean Conference of Churches) with its mouth-piece the CONTACT newspaper, seems to be a lonely bunch of men with reversed collars who are like sheep without a Shepherd.

When the butchers killed Maurice Bishop and Co. the C.C.C. was the first to get into the act, they issued a release condemning the murders and said that "something had to be done immediately". What did they expect to be done? That the Grenadian people should attack the killer-soldiers with sticks and stones? Man, Ricky Singh, during the "corfu" according the butcher Austin if you only stepped outside your house you would be shot on sight.

Since the other OECS states agreed with the C.C.C. that 'something' had to be done immediately they agreed to send in a rescue mission 'immediately'. Now that this has been successfully accomplished and the Grenada masses are happy once more, the C.C.C. and Ricky Singh are condemning the savours, attempting to hide behind some legal jargon, that one sovereign state should never invade another. [as published] But the question that Alan Kirton and Co. should be asking is not whether the OECS and Co. had the right to 'invade' but was it right to invade!

The relief to all concerned is that the C.C.C. only speaks for a very few left-leaning clergymen, because all the churches in all the islands along with 90% of the population of these islands have expressed their full support for the decision to rescue the people from the Marxist butchers.

Some of them deplored the fact that the OECS leaders did not take the issue of whether to invade or not to Parliament. What a set of lunatics! Even with all the secrecy and urgency involved, Burnham was able to alert Austin and Coard to the fact that troops would be landed on Grenada and still the casualties were fairly high but it would have suited the C.C.C. better while the different Parliaments were debating the 'pros' and 'cons' about intervention that Austin and Co. were becoming more prepared, then the American students would be held hostage and eventually killed along with hundreds of Grenadians and Cubans along with OECS soldiers and Marines.

Then the lonely bunch of persons referring to themselves as the C.C.C. and CONTACT would have had a 'field day'. Too bad for you fellows that you had leaders who were prepared to act, your communist plan for these islands has been set back for another 20 years.

If you doubt this, have a look at our own little Marxist Caesar. He has now lost 19 lbs and can be seen ranting and raving up and down the place in a most incoherent manner. The betting is that within the next 12 months, his heart may give out as he suffers from it or that the lunatic asylum should be his home. It is good to see the churches in all the island give full support to the action taken by the governments. The peoples faith in their churches have been restored. [as published]

CSO: 3298/238

## BIRD AGAIN RAPPED BY ACLM FOR 'ALARMING' PUBLIC DEBT

St John OUTLET in English 11 Nov 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] Prime Minister V. C. Bird was obviously bristling with fear and trepidation when, as he is wont to do, turned a Ground-breaking ceremony for the laying of pipes into a Public meeting in which the aging 73 year old PM tried to lash out at ACLM. Of late PM Bird is occupied and pre-occupied with nothing else by ACLM.

Responding to ACLM about the size of the Public Debt PM Bird tried to con the public into the belief that the public debt is only for the Deepwater Harbour constructed in the 1960's and for the purchase of sugar lands of the 60's.

Prime Minister Bird's patently deteriorating mind is rooted in the mud of the 60's.

So as to satisfy the Right of the public to know we detail below the huge public debts with which V. C. Bird and his administration has saddled Antigua & Barbuda as well as unborn generations.

The World Bank Report of 1982 had this to say about Antigua's alarmingly high public debt:

"Antigua's public debt growth has resumed at accelerating rates from 27% in 1980 to 38.7% in 1981 to reach an overall amount of U.S. \$58 million or E.C.\$150.8 million as of the end of 1981."

Note well, the \$150.8 million debt did not include according to the World Bank ECCA purchases and debt operations of foreign Commercial operation" up to and including 1981. [as published]

So that at the end of 1981 Antigua had a public debt of EC\$150.8 million and by the end of 1982 the Bird administration had added another EC\$24 million dollars as its Budget Deficit. That budget deficit of EC\$24 million was borrowed from Commercial Banks at commercial rates of interest, and brought the public debt to a huge \$174 million.

To provide an estimate of how staggering even this public debt is, the World Bank Report ominously warned "In relation to GDP (Gross Domestic



Product) Antigua's outstanding debt has displayed sudden jumps both in 1978 and in 1981. In the latter year, 1981, the level of outstanding debt was above 45% of total GDP". What a situation! What a crisis!

The World Bank again, carries out this analysis of Bird's often pointless borrowings and it noted "As against a gross drawing of U.S.\$10.3 million by the rest of the public sector between 1977 and 1981 the Central Government utilized U.S. \$33 million or EC\$85.8 million dollars in foreign loans." Of this figure, according to World Bank economists, 65% or U.S. \$22 million, EC\$57.2 million "were commercial loans negotiated on commercial terms with an average interest rate of over 15%." Antigua is faced with economic disaster.

Then we proceed to add the U.S. \$90 million or EC\$234 million loan for the Deep Bay condominium project which is non-existent, and simple addition gives EC\$174 added to \$234 million, the huge and overburdening sum of \$408 million.

Then add to that yet another U.S. \$50 million, borrowed from Brazil again in April 1983 and the public debt leaps from \$408 million to \$538 million.

The peculiar thing about this last Brazilian loan is the interest to be paid on the U.S.\$50 million or EC\$130 million for a hotel at an unknown site, for which no feasibility has been done, and for unstated and unknown agricultural projects.

Apart from all that weird business the interest rate to be paid on the loan has this striking clause in the agreement signed by Bird himself in April 1983. The agreement says:

"The interest rate will be established by the funding Brazilian Institute on the date of the execution."

In other words, Bird signed for a huge loan of \$130 million EC without any knowledge whatsoever of what the interest rate would. Not even a 10 year old would negotiate a loan with those conditions. Only those gone completely soft in the head would 'negotiate' such terms.

If a minimum interest rate were applied to the \$538 million debt which can be accounted for, the total public debt is well over the \$600 million mark!

This \$600 million figure is at least 2 1/2 times the total Gross Domestic Product of Antigua, and in those terms Antigua's debt ratio is higher than that of Mexico, bankrupt Brazil and Argentina, the three most debt ridden nations in Latin America. No other Caribbean country compares.

Then after all that, it is note worthy that more than \$500 million of this public debt has never been put before Parliament for approval.

No other Caribbean Country, not even Haiti, conducts public business in this manner.



To say that the Bird regime is sinking Antigua, by its squandermania and downright corruption, into an economic squall is to put it mildly.

To remind that Antigua and Barbuda, had this huge debt and its infrastructure, lights, water, roads, hospital, school chairs, desks, etc are in complete disarray and disrepair, is to see clearly through the dark glass of economic disaster which the Bird regime has visited upon Antigua and Barbuda.

And this massive debt of \$600 million and more is most illegal in that it did not have the parliamentary approval required by law and the constitution. The Bird regime is illegal.

CSO: 3298/238

# GRENADA AFTERMATH BRINGS VARIETY OF REACTIONS, ASSESSMENTS

## Adams in Assembly Debate

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 16 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Tom Adams last night emphasised that the steps taken in going into Grenada were the right ones that had the support of the public and will be endorsed by history.

And he launched a stinging attack on France which joined a number of countries at the United Nations in condemning the action by the combined United States and Caribbean forces in going into Grenada on the rescue mission.

Mr. Adams opened debate in the House of Assembly on the action taken following a bloody military take-over and the killing of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, three cabinet colleagues and an unspecified number of Grenadians.

The Opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) also supported the action.

Mr. Adams said that since the Second World War France had intervened and stationed troops in Independent countries by invitation to support or put down local Governments.

The Prime Minister who is also Minister responsible for Defence and Security said despite that, France could not respect the position of the Governor-General of Grenada Sir Paul Scoon who was the only legal authority in the country.

He said also that those countries that claimed they had no information on the planned action had only themselves to blame. He stated that if Britain for example had respect for its former colonies in the Caribbean it would have listened to Prime Minister John Compton (of St. Lucia) and himself.

"They had only themselves to blame if they did not know what was going on", Mr. Adams told the House.

Mr. Adams said the West European states who originally did not endorse the action were now saying they did not have all the facts at the time while he said he had no quarrel with the Latin American and the African states.

Mr. Adams told Parliament the operation carried out was successful and it was welcomed in the Eastern Caribbean and in Trinidad and Tobago, and even some countries recognised Grenada was a wrong "that had to be righted."

In relation to the matter not being raised in Parliament the Prime Minister said that there was no requirement that a military operation had to be brought to Parliament since it could not be exposed neither could it be risked by having a fact-finding mission.

"This type of operation cannot be handled in that way," he said.

Mr. Adams said the issue was not whether one liked Mr. Bishop's Government or its successor or whether one wanted to please a third country.

"The wider issue is that the people of the Eastern Caribbean have a liking for freedom and democracy", he said.

He added that it was a grave and serious error for the countries of the world to believe that the Eastern Caribbean states were like other third world countries.

#### DLP Backing

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 16 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

The Opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) last night joined the ruling Barbados Labour Party in a rare show of parliamentary unanimity to approve Barbados' participation in the U.S.-led invasion that crushed a leftist Marxist junta in Grenada and set the stage for restoration of elected government.

Deputy Opposition Leader Erskine Sandiford told the House of Assembly that the party

threw its full support behind a government-sponsored resolution condemning the conditions which led to the crisis and approving Barbados' action in responding to a request for help from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

This followed Prime Minister Tom Adams 70-minute narration, broadcast "live" on radio of the events leading up to and during the crisis.

Sandiford strenuously rejected charges that the DLP was silent on the issue and read out his party's statement made since October 19, calling for international action to rescue Grenada from the scourge of dictatorship.

It was on the afternoon of October 19 that Grenada's Prime Minister and other members of his Cabinet were murdered by soldiers at the height of a power struggle with a hardline Marxist faction

of the New Jewel Movement (NJM) led by ex-deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, now under arrest with others.

While the DLP supported the Government, Mr. Sandiford said however that the opposition was not satisfied with the way Government had handled all of the matter pertaining to the crisis and how it has been dealing with others issues arising from Barbados' action. — (CANA)

#### Adams on Cuban Plot

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 16 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Tom Adams revealed in Parliament yesterday that there had been a plot since October 1978 to subvert the islands of the Eastern Caribbean to the advantage of certain Eastern European countries.

According to him the recent events in Grenada dated back to that time when intelligence officers from Cuba, trained in schools in the Soviet Union, passed through the Caribbean. They made contact with persons in the

Eastern Caribbean countries who later emerged on the political scene, becoming household names, he said.

Speaking in the House of Assembly on a resolution approving government's decision to participate in the rescue forces

which went to Grenada. Mr. Adams said that among persons met by the Cuban intelligence agents were Bernard Coard and Union Whiteman.

Mr. Adams said that Barbados had been the meeting point for these intelligence officers who "spread outwards to Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Antigua and St. Kitts, and made some contact in the French islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe."

The officers, he added, became household names themselves, some serving as am-

bassadors in different parts of the Caribbean.

"These Cuban expeditions lasted a comparatively short time, but the movements with which they were in connection began to expand. Particularly noticeable was its expansion in Grenada and St. Lucia," the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister went on to note that subsequently, in 1979, the Governments in Grenada and St. Lucia changed.

"The government of St. Lucia changed peacefully and the

government of Grenada changed by a coup, that was not entirely bloodless as had been suggested. They were deaths," he said.

Mr. Adams observed that at that time the Caribbean faced a problem but many might have been so glad to be rid of the Eric Gairy regime that they ignored and overlooked the means by which the change had been effected. It was, he said, a classic case of looking at the ends and not the means of the change.

### Warning to Journalists

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 16 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] PRIME Minister Tom Adams, yesterday sounded a word of warning to journalists "who preached the left wing doctrine as the ideal."

The Prime Minister was addressing the House of Assembly on a resolution to approve Government's decision to participate in the intervention in Grenada, when he made his comments.

He said: "Those journalists, who in their own country, and in the countries in which they become successively unwelcome, who preach that the Grenada model was the ideal, that the left wing models are the ideal, perhaps should take counsel of themselves and think how many like them were in Richmond Hill Prison in eight by eight cells locked up for 22 hours a day."

The Prime Minister said that it had been planned to execute the prisoners in Richmond Hill. The first batch of about 16 persons had been identified and taken to the condemned cells, he said.

This information, he pointed out, had been uncovered by Barbados' own security forces and had not been given to us by other intelligence agencies.

### Criticism of Guyana

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 17 Nov 83 p 2

[Text] The co-operative Government of President Forbes Burnham came in for a blistering verbal attack when the Barbados House of Assembly last Tuesday night debated a Resolution praising the Barbados Government for its handling of the Grenada affair.

The broadside was led by backbencher and former Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Henry Forde, who accused Guyana, and to some extent Jamaica, for hindering an early return to democracy in Grenada following the 1979 coup which ousted the Sir Eric Gairy regime.

The Barbados Government assisted in putting together multi-national forces which intervened in the Grenada turmoil of October 19, and which followed a counter coup leaving dead three Grenada ministers and Prime Minister Maurice Bishop.

Mr. Forde told the Barbados House of Assembly the Grenada turmoil had its genesis in the silence which manifested itself on the Caribbean scene ever since the violence under Sir Eric Gairy.

Referring to the frantic diplomatic efforts which followed the March 13,

1979 coup, Mr. Forde said many people saw the sole issue then as one of recognition. But he contended that the wider issue, as far as Barbados was concerned, had to do with preserving democracy of the East Caribbean States and the question of human rights for those who had been and would have been imprisoned.

The Government backbencher revealed that from as early as 1979, a few things went wrong regionally and in Grenada itself, as he particularly referred to Guyana, accusing President Burnham of flying in arms for the Maurice Bishop Government while negotiations were taking place on the issue of recognition.

During these negotiations, Mr. Forde said, "Two of our partners were on egocentric trips...Guyana was looking at what Opposition Leader, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, would say, while Jamaica wanted to be the first to recognise the Bishop regime."

The situation was further confused, he added, by the early refusal of Grenada's former Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Preudhomme, to resign

thus lending greater constitutionality to the new regime.

Mr. Forde said Barbados took a battering then but the Government had clearly seen at that point that if the coup had not been steered towards some democratisation, the Government there would be out of tune with the other small island States.

The former Foreign Affairs Minister then referred to the leaking of information on the intervention in Grenada last October and contended: "No doubt some of the basic rules of Caricom have been breached," adding that not since 1979, has any regional country taken the role of leading criticism against another regional State.

The reference was made to Guyana who led Resolutions which condemned Barbados and other States for intervening in Grenada, during discussions on the subject at the United Nations Security Council and UN General Assembly.

Mr. Forde said it was to the eternal shame of Guyana that they did not have the decency to recognise where their true interests lay, even in the United Nations.

In an emotional outburst, the former Cabinet Minister called on President Burnham to "stop the fraudulent elections that are keeping him in power," adding, "If he comes to power fairly and squarely as a Marxist we have to live with that. President Burnham can teach Dominica, Barbados, St. Lucia no lessons in morality... We have carried that country in more ways than one... one of our problems in Barbados is that we have been too generous... I believe he (President

Burnham) has used our friendship and stretched us to the limit."

As Mr. Forde neared the end of his speech, he noted that Barbados could not always turn the other cheek and said that if Barbados was as big as Guyana and had the resources of Venezuela, it could liberate Latin America with the spirit and determination it (Barbados) possessed.

Guyana also came under fire from Housing Minister, Mr. Lloyd B. Brathwaite, who felt that the time had come a long while ago for the Caribbean to take a stand, not only against Grenada, but against Guyana.

He stated: "If you feel that General Austin (who led the last October counter coup against Maurice Bishop) should have been isolated then Field Marshal Burnham should be as well."

Mr. Brathwaite, in a reference to the Caricom informer who alerted General Austin of the multi-national intervention, termed that person "a quisling" and said the person had put the lives of regional forces at risk as they attempted to restore democracy in Grenada.

Deputy Prime Minister Bernard St. John, also took a swipe at President Burnham saying Barbados had made little attempt to deal with "the insulting language of one Caricom member."

He felt that opinion stood in isolation even in the country where it was expressed.

Mr. St. John also said that had the people of that country been free they would give a different view from that expressed by their Head of State.

In any case, he added: "I would not dignify that statement by making further reference to it."

#### Haynes Call for Inquiry

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 17 Nov 83 p 15

[Text] OPPOSITION member of Parliament, Dr. Richie Haynes, is concerned over reports that Barbados will be accepting money from the United States for the use of the island's airport during the Grenada crisis.

Speaking in the House of Assembly on a resolution seeking approval for Government's role in the intervention in Grenada, Dr. Haynes said that it would be

a serious diplomatic blunder if Barbados was to accept this money.

According to him, Barbados had maintained the position at various forums that the United States had been invited to participate in the military operation, and any acceptance of such money could only lead to the feeling that we were being paid by the United States to facilitate its objectives in the region. It might do more damage than good, Dr. Haynes observed.

Noting that there had been

many conflicting statements during the heat of the military operation in Grenada from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, Britain, the United States State Department and between Barbados and Trinidad, Dr. Haynes said that he felt one of the best things Government could do was to call for an international commission of inquiry into the whole Grenada affair.

Such a move, he explained, could help Government in dealing with its diplomatic problems, and he felt that Prime Minister Tom

Adams could take the opportunity of the upcoming Commonwealth heads of government in New Delhi, India, to make sure his request. He observed that the commission could either be from the United Nations or the Commonwealth nations, adding that it would go a long way towards relieving the present storm.

The opposition spokesman also took the opportunity yesterday to express his reservations and concern over the establishment of armies in small countries.

Sooner or later these armies turn around and slaughter the Government and people as two recent events in the region had shown, he said, adding that in the last 20 years such armies had even done this over trifling matters such as a pay hike.

Pointing out that such situations did not arise in the bigger countries since they had a counter-balance force such as the navy or the marines, Dr Haynes suggested that it was time the Caribbean looked at the

idea of establishing some counter-balance authority like a Caribbean High Command Force.

This, he said, would mean that when small armies in the region turned on their civilian government and population they would know that they would have to face the Caribbean High Command Force.

The Opposition MP also sounded a word of caution, saying that we could not allow McCarthyism to spread abroad and go around calling people communists.

## Call for Defense Reassessment

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 17 Nov 83 p 15

[Text]

IN the light of the Grenada situation, Mr. Lawson Weekes, MP for St. Michael North West in the House of Assembly, has called for a reassessment of the role which any defence arm can play in small countries.

He said that at present they were totally ineffective.

Mr. Weekes, who was speaking in the House yesterday, said that had it not been for another power in the Grenada situation, he wondered what position Barbados would be in today.

But he added that he believed good judgement must have prevailed.

Mr. Weekes said he did not have any information as to how the intervention in Grenada had been mounted, but it had been clearly demonstrated that even in an island as small as Grenada, none of the Caribbean forces would have been able to "scratch the surface" for a successful operation.

He wants the Barbados Government to take a serious look at the expenditure on the Defence Force and come to a reasonable conclusion about its role.

Mr. Weekes said "We cannot defend ourselves with these small armies."

He asked whether all the states involved in the intervention were interested in democratic rights. He further asked whether the situation would have been different if the intervention was by another power.

"Was the intervention intended only to restore democracy in Grenada? Or is it another way of telling people in the Caribbean we are not interested in other ideologies, and we are going to make sure this does not happen?" Mr. Weekes asked.

He said that many ex-colonial territories had experienced the lack of financial assistance and had been left, in many instances, without proper infrastructure for many reasons, some of which were low standards of living and the fact that people became attracted to these islands with the belief that a happy living was offered.

Mr. Weekes said one thing that must be borne in mind was that there would always be people who would be satisfied to take an opposite view and fight for it.

The intervention, he said, would bring about problems in other areas. He said they had already heard about the ripples that had reached into CARICOM.

It was felt, he said, that if quick action was not taken, they might very well be at the end of the very purpose for which they believed the intervention could have served.

He made an appeal for a concerted attempt to be made to let whatever institutions we have, function effectively so that they can work in the interest of the region.

Mr. Weekes said that Barbados had taken a stand which would bring this country into the focus of the world.

He said that the Caribbean should be considered as a peaceful place; it should not be a place for warmongers. Every effort should be made to ensure this, he said.

## SECURITY

Mr. Weekes said that "we must be vigilant, so that saboteurs may not be able to prove that such action is wrong".

He said this meant that security in general must be tightened

where problems could be dealt with as they arose.

Mr. Weekes added: "The Government must make sure that we have the kind of feeling in our own country that we would still be liked by others, and that this would only be a passing phase."

"In the long run, we should find it comfortable to dwell among our neighbours in peace and happiness and produce the kind of image that is so vital for

us in this area," Mr. Weekes said.

He supported the resolution because of the seriousness of the problem that had developed in Grenada. He said no human being could sit idly by without raising his voice at such inhuman action as had taken place in Grenada before the intervention.

Mr. Weekes said that the benefits of the sacrifices that had been made would be seen in the long run.



# Adams' Clarifications

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 18 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] Prime Minister Tom Adams has initiated a series of contacts with world leaders critical of the Grenada invasion to explain Barbados' position.

But he said he'll make no effort to heal the rift with Caribbean Community (CARICOM) partner Guyana over the October 25 invasion by the U.S. and seven Caribbean states.

"The reconciliation would have to come from that direction," Adams told the House of Assembly on Wednesday night, referring to Guyana.

Guyana sponsored a U.N. General Assembly resolution condemning the invasion, and President Forbes Burnham has called the Caribbean participants "lackeys and satellites."

Adams said he had written to heads of government who have been critical of the invasion to explain Barbados' position. He specifically mentioned Prime Ministers Bob Hawke of Australia, Pierre Trudeau of Canada, Manuel Soares of Portugal and Linden Pindling of the Bahamas.

He said he has also written to think the Prime Ministers of those countries who voted against the U.N. resolution or who abstained. [as published]

Adams said he would explain Barbados' position on Grenada at next week's Commonwealth summit in New Delhi. And former Attorney General Henry Forde, the Barbados Labour Party's delegate to the Socialist International, will explain the reasons for the invasion at that group's annual meeting later this month in Brussels, Adams said.

But he rejected any rapprochement with Burnham. "We cannot move towards that Government," Adams said. "It has abused us unmercifully. It has disrespected democracy and disregarded decency in the Caribbean."

Adams said Burnham has "come to the crossroads."

"He has decided, basically, that his government is not one that could find it possible seriously to condemn the murders in Grenada or to vote for sanctions or anything else," Adams said.

Burnham cast the sole dissenting vote that blocked expulsion of Grenada from Caricom following the October 19 slaying of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and three of his cabinet members in a bloody military coup.

# Adams on Defense Force

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 18 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] A group of Caribbean states participating in the peace-keeping operation in Grenada plans to expand their joint defence force to include a standing army, to be trained and partially equipped by the United States.

Barbados Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Lionel Craig told the House of Assembly last Wednesday night the new force would be headquartered in Barbados, with permanent units stationed in each of the other islands.

At the same time, Prime Minister Tom Adams said he has written to several heads of Governments in an effort to counter condemnation of the October 25 invasion of Grenada by a joint U.S.-Caribbean force.

The standing army now in the planning stage would be an expansion of the Regional Security Pact signed here last year by Barbados, Antigua, Dominica and St. Vincent. A regional Coast Guard was established under that agreement.

Craig said the newly independent state of St. Kitts-Nevis would be invited to sign the agreement. Grenada will also be invited to join once it has a constitutionally elected Government, he said.

Craig said the United States will supply "vertical airlift capacity--helicopters, et cetera" and also train the regional force "so that we might be able to keep the claws of the Russian bear at some future date from entering these beautiful little islands of ours."

He did not say how large a force was planned, Jamaica, Barbados and Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) members supplied about 400 soldiers and policemen for the Grenada operation, but did not take part in the fighting in the October 25 invasion. [as published]

The OECS, a seven-member group of which Grenada is a member, made the initial decision to seek U.S. military intervention after Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and three members of his Cabinet were executed in a bloody coup October 19.

Meanwhile, Adams told the House of Assembly he had written to several heads of government who were critical of the invasion to explain Barbados' position. He specifically mentioned Prime Ministers Bob Hawke of Australia, Pierre Trudeau of Canada, Manuel Soares of Portugal and Linden Pindling of the Bahamas.

CSO: 3298/229/230



## ADAMS' ROW WITH TRINIDAD-TOBAGO SPARKS REACTION

## Haynes Attack

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 16 Nov 83 p 14

[Text] OPPOSITION parliamentarian. Dr. Richie Haynes yesterday castigated Prime Minister Tom Adams for, what he called, harsh words used by the Prime Minister in reference to former Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner, Basil Pitt.

Speaking during debate on a resolution to purchase vehicles, plant, equipment and furniture for the embassy to be set up in

Trinidad, Dr. Haynes told the House of Assembly that the time had come for people in public life in Barbados to conduct themselves in a manner that was compatible with public interest.

In obvious reference to the recent exchange of differences of opinion between Mr. Adams and Mr. Pitt, which resulted in the latter being recalled by his prime minister in response to a

request from Prime Minister Adams, Dr. Haynes added that these people in public life should not use language which resulted in serious hardships for the people of Barbados.

There is no reason, said Dr. Haynes, that a Barbados Government official should resort to calling the ambassador of another country an outright liar.

## Taitt Call for Apology

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 16 Nov 83 p 14

[Text] PRIME MINISTER TOM ADAMS owes this country an apology for his behaviour in the diplomatic impasse involving the former High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. Basil Pitt

So said Mr. Branford Taitt, MP for St. Michael West, while speaking in the House of Assembly yesterday on a resolution for \$282 757, which makes supplementary provision for motor vehicles, furniture and equipment for the residences occupied by the personnel employed at the embassy to be established in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Mr. Taitt said that Prime Minister Adams would recognise in his sober moments that the treatment of Mr. Pitt in calling him an "outright liar", was an error of judgement.

The Opposition member said that the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. George Chambers, was not now calling Barbados by name, but he was referring to us as that country

## NO NEED

Speaking on the resolution, Mr. Taitt said it should be withdrawn because it was his understanding, based on observation in the newspapers, that there was no need for the supplementary provision.

He recalled that there was a consultation held by the Democratic Labour Party (DLP) at which a paper had been presented urging that Barbados should have representation in Caribbean Community countries.

Mr. Taitt said it was his feeling then, and still is now, that the Caribbean Community was the single most important institution created in the region in the past 25 years.

It was his considered belief, he said, that Barbados could not hope to survive in this present world, economically or in any other form, if it did not see its destiny within the context of the Caribbean Community.

## DIFFICULTIES

He said the efficacy and desirability of that position had not been questioned until during the last few months, or so, when economic conditions, and substantial mismanagement on the part of some governments led to the breakdown in the arrangements of the Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF), the vehicle by which Caribbean government paid their debts for trade.

Mr. Taitt recounted trading difficulties and then referred to what he called a recent "un-diplomatic statement" by Prime Minister Adams. He said that Mr. Adams' statement was totally unacceptable in foreign affairs and diplomacy.

Continuing, Mr. Taitt said that some manufacturers in Trinidad had been pushing the Trinidad government to put some pressure on some of the imports from Barbados.

## OUTBURST

He said that the outburst by Prime Minister Adams had provided the foundation for a whole series of activities to come into play.

Mr Taitt said that a number of Barbadians would be laid off

from manufacturing firms, and the Governor of the Central Bank, who had said there would be no problem in finding \$60 or \$80 million for a Central Bank building, was now telling people to tighten their belts.

He stated that the intemperate nature of Prime Minister Adams' remarks had done nothing to add

to the creativity and stability of the Caribbean Community.

Mr. Taitt said he hoped that the establishment of an embassy or high commission in Trinidad would still proceed in spite of the bad relations which seemed to hover on the horizons of Barbados and Trinidad.

## Threat to Joint Projects

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 16 Nov 83 p 15

[Text]

THE worsening of relations between Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados as a result of a recent exchange of words between the two countries has left a number of joint projects at stake.

So said Opposition parliamentarian, Dr. Richie Haynes, when the House of Assembly met for the first time after October 17 when Parliament was re-opened after prorogation.

Dr. Haynes identified these projects as CARICARGO and the Arawak Cement Plant now under construction at Checker Hall in St. Lucy.

He said the decision of BWIA to resume lifting of cargo would work against CARICARGO. He then said that the people of Barbados were civilised people and, therefore, must isolate themselves from the words used by Prime Minister Adams about the Trinidad and Tobago High Commissioner to Barbados, Mr. Basil Pitt.

"I would like to tell the people of Trinidad that the people of Barbados disassociate themselves from the unschooled words of the Prime Minister," he added.

Dr. Haynes told the House that it should have been recognised that most of Barbados' exports to Trinidad were non-essential items and, therefore, would be among the first to be examined under the circumstances.

He said that because of the performance of the oil industry in Trinidad over the past four to five years, that country's industrial sector was not operating at full capacity. He, however, reminded that that country had a vibrant productive sector even before Jamaica and was capable of producing all the items that Barbados made for export to that country.

He said that these considerations should have guided the Prime Minister in his response to Mr. Pitt, stating that the implications were too grave and it was not right for anyone to play with the fortunes of the people of this country.

Dr. Haynes said that as a result of this straining of relations between the two countries, a number of Barbadians had lost their jobs and even more would follow.

He called on the Government members to bring pressure to bear on the Prime Minister so that the authority of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would be increased to allow the services of experienced people to be utilised so similar situations would not arise again.

## St John Denial

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 16 Nov 83 p 15

[Text] Minister of Trade, and Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Bernard St. John, has rebuffed statements that a number of joint projects between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago were at stake as a result of recent exchanges between the two countries.

He was responding to charges by the Opposition spokesman on finance, Dr. Richie Haynes, that the Arawak Cement Plant and CARICARGO were threatened by the differences which resulted from Trinidad's High Commissioner, Mr. Basil Pitt being recalled.

St. John said that the Trinidad and Tobago economic situation was deteriorating for some time, and the protectionist elements were trying to have regulations passed to restrict Caricom trade.

He said that to connect the decision by BWIA, to resume lifting of freight with CARICARGO, was "factually incorrect". The Minister of Trade explained that BWIA had a new chairman who appointed a committee which had recommended that BWIA should go back to being its own agent.

St. John said that BWIA, contrary to what the Opposition had said, never stopped its air freight service, adding that in 1979 when CARICARGO was formed, it was agreed that that company would be BWIA's agent, "filling BWIA's belly first" and then its own.

They charged (BWIA) that CARICARGO was not following this agreement and so would become their own agent again, which they had every right to do.

The committee also recommended, Mr. St. John added, that BWIA competed directly with LIAT and added that if BWIA felt they had an obligation to only one country, then that was their right.

He said he had discussed that CARICARGO situation with managing director of that company and was assured that it would not affect their operations.

#### Additional St John Remarks

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 16 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] Barbados' Trade Minister, Mr. Bernard St. John, believes that efforts are being made to clear up measures recently imposed by Trinidad and Tobago to ease its foreign exchange outflow.

The stringent measures introduced by Barbados' main Caricom trading partner has led to closure of some manufacturing enterprises in this island and manufacturers are now looking to Third Country markets.

Mr. St. John said there were three Barbadians monitoring the scheme in Trinidad and he was satisfied that it was not a question of the scheme being directed against Barbados.

"I am satisfied that the scheme is not working how it was intended to work and that all exporters are undergoing great difficulty," Mr. St. John said.

He told the House of Assembly that only Monday, because of criticism of the scheme, a special meeting was held between officials of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, which, according to newspaper reports, was to discuss difficulties surrounding the administration of the scheme and make attempts to iron them out.

The Deputy Prime Minister, reacting to comments made by Opposition MP, Mr. Branford Taitt, about what Mr. Taitt described as "undiplomatic"

statements by the Prime Minister, said that West Indian people knew politics were carried on in a heated manner.

#### Adams' Response to Criticism

Bridgetown: BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 16 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

Verbal exchanges (between those who hold the reins of Government in Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago) are "no more than bits of straw on the ocean of amity between two neighbouring countries who have been blessed with being economically the best-off countries in the Third World."

These are the words of Barbados' Prime Minister, Mr. Tom Adams, reacting to criticism in the House of Assembly yesterday on the way he handled a matter between himself and former Trinidad High Commissioner to this country, Mr. Basil Pitt.

The matter concerned the October 25 rescue mission to Grenada.

Opposition MP, Mr. Branford Taitt, felt that Mr. Adams had behaved in an undiplomatic way when he reportedly called Mr. Pitt a "downright liar."

Mr. Adams asked Mr. Taitt if, in the interest of objectivity, he had ever heard in history of an ambassador distorting a conversation between

himself and the head of a Government.

The Prime Minister said relations between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago in many ways like relations between husbands and wives and wives and husbands.

He said there was need for a little quarelling to clear the air, and added that Mr. Taitt had chosen to take up the cudgels for Mr. Pitt in the same way that another Opposition MP, Dr. Richie Haynes, had taken up the cudgels of the former People's Revolutionary Government in Grenada.

"We have had an unfortunate political rift relating to an act of policy which I believe was supported by the public of Trinidad in the same way it was supported by the public of Barbados," the Prime Minister said.

He said several thousand jobs in Barbados could be related to sales to Trinidad in the same way that several hundred jobs in Trinidad could be related to trade with Barbados.

CSO: 3298/230

## BANK HEAD SEES NO DANGER IN JAMAICAN DEVALUATION

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 25 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] Governor of the Central Bank of Barbados, Dr. Courtney Blackman, does not foresee any difficulties to Barbados as a result of the devaluation of the Jamaica dollar by 43 percent.

Dr. Blackman hoped the removal of licences on most goods would make it easier for Barbadian goods to get into Jamaica, although Jamaican goods would be cheaper in the Barbadian markets.

The Jamaican dollar has been devalued under a new 15-month credit arrangement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The devaluation, announced in the Jamaica Parliament Wednesday night by Prime Minister Edward Seaga, follows the IMF's rejection of that country's government's assertion that it had passed performance criteria laid down for September by the fund under a US\$650 million facility signed in 1981.

According to a CANA report from Kingston, Mr. Seaga, who is also minister of finance, said the devaluation meant a unification of the island's dual exchange system under which the Jamaica dollar was tied to the US dollar at a rate of \$1.78 Jamaica for US\$1.

One US dollar will now be worth J \$3.15 Mr. Seaga said, though he pointed out commercial banks would be able to set daily rates with an adjustment factor of up to 15 Jamaican cents either way.

Since January, Jamaica had been operating the dual exchange system, with commercial banks operating the so-called parallel market, which accounts for the bulk of transactions.

The official rate was used for basic imports, Government payments and debt service, food for the tourist sector and a few other transactions.

Commenting on the Jamaica devaluation, Dr. Blackman welcomed the unification of the rate because it would make Barbados' trade and general financial relationships with Jamaica more simple.

He said that from Barbados' point of view, the J \$3.15 was higher than had been expected.

Dr. Blackman added that Jamaican manufacturers were still going to absorb higher costs as a result of the devaluation.

He therefore did not see why, generally, Barbadian manufacturers should not continue to do well on the Jamaican market.

The Central Bank governor said: "We are happy that the Jamaicans have at last reached agreement with the IMF.

"The business of foreign exchange was threatening to dry up trade between Jamaica and Barbados because Jamaica has been unable to settle its accounts with us of US \$5 million owing in bilateral trading agreements."

He was hopeful that now there was settlement with the IMF, payment of the funds would be forthcoming.

Mr. Henry Vieira, president of the Barbados Manufacturers' Association, said: "We are studying the situation and awaiting clarification of the information.

"We will be watching very cautiously over the next few days."

CSO: 3298/231

## GUYANESE JOURNALIST SINGH GIVEN NEW DEPORTATION DEADLINE

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 17 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

Guyana-born journalist Rickey Singh, whose work permit has been revoked by the Barbados Government, said yesterday he had received a new order confirming the Government's November 1 decision and giving him until December 3 to leave the country.

Singh, editor of the monthly regional newspaper Caribbean Contact, said he was booked to fly to Georgetown yesterday, but on receipt of the order, he decided to use the time to settle "urgent domestic matters."

He said he would be leaving "at anytime", and stressed that in spite

of the order to leave Barbados, his lawyer had told him he was still free to visit the island in the future.

Singh's employers, the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC), intervened in the matter after the first revocation order was served to see if the Government would rescind the order.

No reasons were given for the revocation of Singh's permit which was due to expire on July 4, 1985. It is widely speculated that the journalist's open denunciation of last month's U.S.-led invasion of Grenada triggered the government action. Barbados backed the invasion.

CSO: 3298/231

## ECONOMIST CITED ON ALLEGED CUBAN ARMS SHIPMENTS THROUGH BELIZE

## Use of Southern Route

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 27 Nov 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] According to a report in the ECONOMIST, world reputed news magazine of November 4, Belize is one of six overland routes that the Cubans use to smuggle arms into El Salvador.

The ECONOMIST says that the war in El Salvador has become a classic war by proxy between the two superpowers, during which war some 110,000 persons have died out of a population of 18 million, and another million have been displaced.

"More arms are now reaching El Salvador from Cuba through southern Belize and Guatemala, and by air through remote airstrips in northern Honduras, to which the arms are ferried from Nicaragua. Arms also reach Guatemala's guerillas by the Belize route and from Mexico," the ECONOMIST reports. It adds: "At the Condeca meeting the Guatemalans undertook to step the flow with American technical assistance. [as published]"

Two weeks ago a C-45 aircraft of the El Salvador Air Force manned by a crew of three landed at Punta Gorda's tiny municipal airstrip. The plane, with markings of F.A.S. 114, took off again shortly before noon. No official explanation has been given, and the Belize Government has been silent about the landing.

Knowledgeable sources however say the Salvadoran plane may have been one of those fitted with electronic devices to search out gunrunners in the south of the country.

## Salvadoran Plane Incident

Punta Gorda TOLEDO STAR in English 13 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] A Blue & White C-45 (DC-3) airplane of the Salvadoran Air Force (F.A.S.-114) landed at Punta Gorda's municipal airstrip on Friday last week at 11:30 AM. Except for a crew of 3 persons, the plane was empty. The Pilot alighted and told two persons who happened to be at the field, that



they had lost their way due to fog. They then took off towards Pto. Barrios.

There were no Belizean Police, Immigration, Security or British Security to check on the military plane's landing or take-off.

CSO: 3298/232

## ISRAEL HELPS GUATEMALA WITH ARMS MANUFACTURING

Belize City DISWEEK in English 18 Nov 83 pp 1, 9

[Text]

**T**he Guatemalan army is committed to developing an arms manufacturing industry the first in Central America and a munitions factory is operating in the department of Alta Verapaz since last May.

The Israeli government is actively involved in the arms manufacturing program, which will, among other things, turn out the Israeli "Galil" rifles. Since 1977, the Guatemalan army has replaced the Garand M-1 used by its forces with 15,000 Galils. The Honduran army also adopted the Uzi submachine gun and the Galil as standard weapons.

One of the important decisions adopted by CONDECA (Central American Defense Council) military commanders at their recent meeting in Guatemala was to supply all Central American armies (excepting Nicaragua) with a single type of weapon and ammunition. This hinges on supplies of Israeli weapons

to be made in Guatemala. In this way, supply routes will be significantly shortened, and Israel will be better able to fulfill the mandate given it by the US, to supply its puppet armies in Central America. Israeli cooperation with the military industry in Guatemala is not, however, limited to arms manufacture. There are some 300 Israeli military advisers in Guatemala, covering aspects from military electronics to counterinsurgency.

**Tadiran Israel Electronics Industries Limited**, a firm that manufactures for the Israel arms industry, recently started operations in Guatemala for the manufacture of electronic equipment for government and army use. Initial capital outlay was \$12 million.

The radar system at La Aurora international airport in Guatemala City is operated by Israeli technicians, while Israeli advisers are teaching local bureaucrats how to

process computerized information. In 1981 the military electronics and transmission school was opened with Israeli technology. It is the only one of its kind in Central America.

The Zionist advisers also work closely with the Guatemalan army intelligence services. The interrogation sessions to which thousands of kidnapped and jailed Guatemalan patriots are subjected in clandestine army jails are planned by Israeli, Chilean and Argentine advisers.

The Israeli advisers have also been instrumental in carrying out the Guatemalan army's "Aid Program for Conflict Areas" (PAAC), based on the Israeli operations in Palestinian occupied territories. The programs are developed on the basis of a militarily controlled population.

The Israeli role in Guatemala as a go-between for the United States is an increasingly belligerent one and threatens to spread to the entire region.

CSO: 3298/232

## PAPER REITERATES ITS NEUTRALITY, SCORES U.S. 'PUPPETS'

Belize City DISWEEK in English 18 Nov 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

**T**his newspaper has never set out an ideology, and it is not doing so now. We do not pledge blind loyalty to any of the four political parties in the nation. We try to provide a level of journalism which is informed, independent and fair.

There are, of course, certain principles in which we firmly believe and to which we are deeply committed. We will uphold and defend these principles even if we are the only ones doing so, even if it is unpopular and dangerous to do so, even if it brings us unwanted heat. We are not opportunists, and we are not for sale.

Among these principles we include the right of peoples to self-determination, which means that people must be free to pursue their own social and economic policies without pressures of any kind from outside. We include the principle of non-intervention and the non-use of force in the settlement of international disputes or problems. In short, we support the fundamental principles of international law and of the Charter of the United Nations.

**A Duty To Inform**

On 25 October, 1983, the government of the United States of America violated all these principles and made a mockery of the UN Charter when it invaded the tiny Commonwealth Caribbean island of Grenada. The vast majority of the countries of the world and many responsible people in the US itself, including Congressmen, have recognized this fact and condemned the invasion. The Caribbean Conference of Churches has done likewise. The US had no moral or legal right or justification for this act of aggression. It merely took advantage of the tragic circumstances in Grenada to accomplish, with the use of overwhelming force, what it had wanted to do for a long time, which is to replace a government it did not approve of.

While we were the first to condemn the atrocities committed by Bishop's murderers, this remained a matter for the people of

Grenada themselves to deal with, and could in no way justify the violation of their sovereignty.

In these circumstances, we decided it was our duty to inform our readers about the facts, including the historical antecedents, and to condemn the gross violation of the fundamental principles we are committed to uphold. In doing so, we were aware that this would bring a lot of pressure on us from many quarters, directly or indirectly inspired by the US interests here and those who wish to profit from them. We can do without that kind of pressure, and certainly do not welcome it, but we could never abdicate our responsibility to our people and our nation. The principles we uphold are the ones upon which our very survival as a nation depends. There are certain things with which we cannot play games.

We expect no better from, and are not concerned about, those puppets and opportunists in our midst who would prostitute themselves for the hope of a few dollars more and for whom, therefore, the US can do no wrong. We are concerned about, and wish to be understood by, those honest and patriotic Belizeans who, perhaps confused by the massive propaganda to which we are all subjected, feel that 'disweek' has been too harsh in its criticism of the United States.

To them we say: those guilty of the harsh action are the ones who launched the criminal aggression that has resulted in a great number of deaths and the violation of a people's sovereignty. No amount of criticism can measure up to that. If we appear to be harsh, it is not because we hate the US, but because we love Belize, and we know that our future depends on the validity of the very principles violated by the invasion.

#### **Freedom of Information**

Finally, a word to those who are upset because 'disweek' dared to make available to our readers another side of the story, in particular the statements made by the government of Cuba, which was being accused by the US as the real villain of the piece. No matter that we also published President Reagan's speech; we are attacked for allowing the other side to have its say.

There must be a misunderstanding here: often this criticism comes from the very people who speak of the rule of law, of freedom of expression, of democracy. Well, the rule of law requires that an accused be heard in his defense; freedom of expression and of the press requires that people be allowed access to more than one point of view; democracy requires a climate of tolerance and freedom.

What we have witnessed in the case of the invasion of Grenada is that the US view is presented on television, on the radio and in the written media a million times more than any opposing view. Yet there seems to be a fear that people hear anything that questions the validity of that propaganda. We are reminded

of the words of Newsweek: "... this President (Reagan) doesn't believe in freedom of information."

Do we in Belize believe in it? Do we believe in freedom of the press? Do we believe in democracy? If we do, then we will understand when 'disweek' practices these freedoms in defense of fundamental principles that protect our sovereignty. And some day, perhaps, we will recognize that, at a time when others cowered, 'disweek' upheld the voice of our national sovereignty and national dignity.

CSO: 3298/232

## BRITISH OFFICIAL'S VISIT MAY INDICATE TROOP PULLOUT RETHINK

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 13 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

**BRITISH MINISTER** of State for American and Caribbean Affairs, the Rt. Hon. Janet Mary Young, Baroness of Farnsworth, has concluded a busy two-day visit to Belize during which she conferred with the Belize Defence Minister Mr. C. L. B. Rogers and had discussions with the Officer Commanding British troops here, Brigadier A. Pollard.

The purpose of the British Minister's trip was not revealed in the Belize communique nor in the separate release issued by the British High Commissioner, but it is thought she was sent to Belize to make an on-the-spot assessment which will guide Mrs. Thatcher, the British Prime Minister, on a timetable for the pull-out of British Troops.

Mrs. Thatcher has indicated that she wants British Troops back in England by Christmas next year, and President Ronald Reagan last month asked her to wait a little longer until the chaotic situation in Central America settles somewhat.

The visit of Mrs. Young is the first inkling we have that Mrs. Thatcher may be having second thoughts about her stated deadline.

British-American relations are currently at their lowest ebb, partly because of British fears that the United States now wants to resume arms sales to Argentina, which has just held democratic elections and whose new government has declined to end the state of hostility which still exists between herself and the United Kingdom, and partly because

of what happened in Grenada three weeks ago when the U.S. led a multi-national invading force to route the Grenada Revolutionary Army and send almost a thousand Cubans packing.

Mrs. Young, who is Vice Chairman of the Conservative Party and Government Spokesman in the House of Lords on Foreign Affairs, has responsibility for British relations with the United States and the rest of the Americas. As a close friend and associate and ally of Mrs. Thatcher her views are likely to weigh heavily with the Iron Lady of the British Isles.

During her visit to Belize Baroness Young spent a lot of time visiting British Forces scattered in five military camps through out the south and west.

## CHARGES EXCHANGED AS CITY COUNCIL ELECTION DRAWS CLOSER

## Right-Left Split in Mayor's Fall

Belize City AMANDALA in English 11 Nov 83 p 1

[Text]

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Nov. 11

Of the three right wing City Council incumbents rejected last week by PUP leadership for their December slate of 9, the most intriguing case is that of ex-Mayor Erle Ferguson.

His rejected compatriots-Councillors Simeon Sampson and Danny Meighan - have sources of income independent of the People's United Party.

But Erle Ferguson's entire working career has been spent within the folds of the PUP. First recruited as a teenager by then Belize Times Publisher Tony Meighan to work in the party newspaper offices in the 60s, Erle eventually received a scholarship to study mass communications at Mona, Jamaica, in 1975.

This was during the Manley area. Ferguson was radicalized in Jamaica and on his return to Belize became a close associate of Assad Shoman and Billy Heusner. Erle, in fact, spearheaded the left's attempts to control the youth wing of the PUP from 1976 through 1978. He was the leader of the Belize Youth Movement (BYM).

Sometime after the 1979 general elections, Erle Ferguson defected from the left and joined the Sylvestre led right wing. He became a City Councillor and even Mayor in 1982.

But Danny Meighan fingered him as a co-conspirator in last December's abortive right wing demonstrations against Prime Minister Price, and now all Ferguson is left with is THE VOICE newspaper.

## UDP on PUP Infighting

Belize City AMANDALA in English 11 Nov 83 p 1

[From paid advertisement headed THE UDP BULLETIN Vol 1, No 12, 12 Nov 83, and noting that "views expressed...do not necessarily represent those of the editorial board of AMANDALA"]

[Text]

In recent weeks the convince people that PUP have been trying to their leaders are all

united and working for the good of Belize. If there remains any drop of decency in the PUP, then the least we can believe is that that claim is a lie. Because if we were to believe otherwise, then we must believe that the Communists and the Capitalists in the PUP have kissed and made up. And let us not forget who pointed out the leftists in the PUP.

The PUP capitalists circulated a paper in April of this year warning members of the PUP that there were communists in their midst seeking to overthrow the PUP itself. According to that paper, and we quote: "(there are) militant members of the PUP who want to bring about dangerous changes within the party's framework and structures. Among the members are: Said Musa, Gloria McField, ... Remijio Montejó, ... Dorian Barrow, ... Rafael Chavez..."

The paper goes on to say these people are "A party within the PUP and it is this faction that Said Musa intends to draw away from the PUP if his ambitions are not attained." Furthermore, the PUP right tells us, these people have been "conducting meetings in Belize City...denouncing the party, its policies, and programs."

Can we now believe that all these charges PUP was hurling at fellow PUP were all lies? And if there was any truth in the PUP right, how can they disgrace themselves by now publicly lapping up their own vomit and telling us that they have united with these same people they called communists? What's worse, they have the nerve to urge us to vote for these same people! They must think very little of the intelligence of our Belizean people.

Meanwhile, the leftists in the PUP told us in a paper entitled "The Democratic Direction of the PUP" that "the most fundamental problem is that democracy is not self-perpetuating leadership." These same people now are asking the citizens of Belize to accept the undemocratic principles of the PUP and vote for the slate handed down to us! They promised to steer the PUP "away from all abuses and corruption." Now they urge

us to vote for the very people they have been accusing of abuses and corruption! What hypocrites! It is no wonder the people of Belize long for 1984 to arrive so they will have a chance to vote them all out of office. That



is why people have decided to strike the first blow for freedom and democracy in the up-coming City Council elections. This is the first chance the people will have to express how fed-up they are with the deception, communism, and corruption within the ruling party. The battle cry of all

Belizeans, not only in Belize City, but all over the country is now Today the City Council, tomorrow Belmopan! Let us all unite behind the solid team of the United Democratic Party and carry them all to victory in December. Together we will vote the UDP nine, down the line!

Slap at UDP

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 13 Nov 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

The opposition United Democratic Party is always trying to paint a gloomy picture of the governing People's United Party. The strategy is very simple. The opposition would like to see the PUP fall apart because they would be the ones to benefit the most.

One of their newspapers says the PUP will soon fall. It goes on to attempt to show that there is a power struggle within the governing party. We must say that this is an exercise in futility. No such thing is happening within the PUP.

It may be though, that the opposition is desperate now that the City Council elections are coming up. Most likely the UDP leaders feel uncertain about their position and they want to create a spirit of optimism among their followers. So they say the PUP is divided, and they go on further to boost their ego pretending to believe that a survey can predict a UDP victory.

First we ask, which party is divided. Is it not true that Esquivel, Thompson, Lindo and Perdomo are fighting for the leadership of the UDP? They have ousted Goldson and minimized Thompson's power. Now they are using Perdomo as the hatchet man. He axed Mena in Benque a few weeks ago. Esquivel and Lindo are trying to find their way in the dark. So, whose house is divided?

As to the survey that gives them the edge in the City Council elections, who conducted

the survey? Who is the Voter Education and Research Association? Obviously, an arm of the opposition.

The electorate cannot be fooled. They have had a very sad experience with a UDP City Council. These things are not easily forgotten.

We tell the UDP: KEEP ON FISHING IN MUDDY WATERS.

#### PUP Manifesto

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 20 Nov 83 p 12

[Words in slantlines indicate boldface and all capitals]

[Text] The /PUP 9/ are committed to those tasks which will fill and satisfy the needs of the residents of Belize City. They are vitally involved in the overall plan to create a City which is the economic nerve centre of our developing nation. We cannot delay or falter. We must continue on the drive to build. Experiments by the Opposition in the past proved costly and we cannot now afford another experiment. Our goals for Belize City are clear and our purpose is certain.

Vote the /nine PUP candidates/ to continue the progressive development of Belize City.

The /PUP nine/ comprises /three women/ and /six men./ The /PUP/ believes in the equality of the sexes.

Let us move together with the /PUP nine,/ to fulfill our objectives and to build the /new Belizean society./ We must complete the infrastructure:

- We must finish the water and sewage project
- We must complete the city-wide drainage scheme and get the canals flowing
- We must build even more sidewalks
- We must continue to modernize the market places
- We must place more refuse bins on the streets
- We must provide more parks and playgrounds
- We must complete the Belize City Centre
- We must continue to provide more space and improve our cemetery and burial grounds
- We must build more sea walls
- /We must complete all we begun!/ [as published]

## PUP Convention

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 20 Nov 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] The nine PUP candidates for the upcoming City Council elections were ratified at a special Convention at the City Centre on Wednesday Nov. 16.

The Convention was attended by several hundred party members and supporters.

The PUP 9--Dorian Barrow, Gloria McField, Harry Lui, Rafael Chavez, Merlene Fonseca, Victor Usher, Remigio Montejó, Marie Lewis, and Winston Smiling took the PUP oath of allegiance. Each candidate gave a short address on the manifesto for the mid 80's. The acting Party Secretary, Minister Florencia Marin also spoke. He gave a report on some of the party's activities leading to the convention.

Among those present were: Prime Minister Price, Deputy Prime Minister Rogers and ministers Musa, Courtenay Hunter, Sylvestre and Mrs Usher.

Prime Minister Price paid tribute to the late Senator Venancia Petillo who died on Nov. 15.

The Prime Minister also reviewed some of the major achievements of the PUP government.

He spoke on the progress Belize has seen in the fields of education, agriculture, housing, social security, water and sewage, roads and health.

For his part, the Deputy Prime Minister urged the people to intensify the campaign for the coming elections. He reminded voters that it is a country-wide election, not a divisional election. He said people will be voting for 9 candidates. "People are fighting for one-man, one-vote in other parts and in Belize we have one-man 9 votes" he said. Mr Rogers said the same people now running under the UDP ticket are the ones who boycotted the independence celebrations. "They have no confidence in their own country and now they are asking the people to put them in power," he said.

The present City Council will be dissolved on Nov. 30. The final meeting of the Council will be on Nov. 29.

## UDP Manifesto

Belize City AMANDALA in English 25 Nov 83 pp 6, 7, 11

[From paid advertisement headed THE UDP BULLETIN Vol 1, No 13, 27 Nov 83, and noting that "views expressed...do not represent those of the editorial board of AMANDALA"]

[Text] Part I The City

Our drains are dirty; there is garbage everywhere; our streets cratered or flooded. Belize City history goes back more than three hundred years.

... We have a duty to our proud history to restore beauty and pride to our City. The UDP City Council will work hard to make our people proud of their City. To this end, the UDP pledges that when you elect us to office in the City Council, we will:

1. Work closely with the Canadian sewage project to see to it that broken-up streets are restored and inconvenience kept to a minimum. We will convert public toilets, connecting them to the Sewage System.
2. Maintain unpaved streets in the new area of town in good condition, while pressing Central Government to carry out its legal responsibility to pave them. Paved streets not being torn up by the sewage project will be kept in good repair.
3. Give priority to properly maintaining the access road to the Lord's Ridge Cemetery. We will also restore this resting place of our loved ones by ensuring that it is kept looking neat and clean. Yarrowbrough Cemetery has been allowed to fall back to ruin during the past three years. The UDP will once again rescue this historic shrine from neglect and decay.
4. Demand through the Council's representatives on the Belize Electricity Board, that the people of this City no longer be treated as pawns to be abused and tormented by the Board with continuous black-outs, outrageous electricity rates, and unfair and unequal treatment.
5. Eagerly undertake as its special project the proper drainage of the City, working together with any outside agency assigned to study the special problems faced by Belize City.
6. Improve the sanitary and other environmental conditions of the Belize City Market.
7. Make all efforts to rid our City of unsightly garbage and rubbish. The UDP had just begun to implement its programme to solve this very serious problem when the other party came to office. Very little has been done since then. A UDP City Council will be able to fully implement a scientific programme worked out after years of study of the problem.
8. Beautify areas of the City such as the approaches to Belize City from the Northern and Western Highways, as well as in the neighbourhood of the Municipal Airstrip, the Southside Canals, and the Swimming Facilities at Newtown Barracks.
9. Repair the neglected equipment at playgrounds and parks. Parks and Playgrounds are essential in an overcrowded City such as ours. We will give Parks and Playgrounds special attention to improve them and beautify them.

## Part 2 City Government

The UDP will restore to the Belize City Council the high standards of honesty and hard work we introduced in 1974.

The Council's financial affairs will once again be made known to the city taxpayers.

The UDP Council will restore the five-day week we introduced for our employees when we were in office before.

The UDP believes strongly in greater autonomy for local government bodies. The City Council and Town Boards are elected directly by the people. To carry out its responsibilities the City Council must exercise more control over its own revenue and expenditures.

#### Revenue Sharing

The Belize Government collects upwards of \$23,000,000 (twenty-three million dollars) in direct taxes from Belize Citizens--more than five hundred dollars per year for every man, woman and child in Belize City. The UDP believes that under the system of Revenue Sharing practiced in democratic countries, at least ten percent (10%) of that revenue should be returned to the maintenance and development of Belize City.

Every day thousands of motor vehicles pound Belize City streets. These same vehicles pay millions in taxes and licences to the Belmopan Government. Yet not one cent of these millions comes back to repair the damage caused to our streets by these vehicles.

With support of the voters of Belize City the UDP City Council will seek through its Board of Finance a fair share of the national revenue for Belize City. With this revenue, plus its own regular revenues, the UDP City Council will carry out its manifesto for a new Belize City without extra financial burden to the Belize City taxpayers.

At the moment the Central Government does not pay City taxes on government-owned buildings. Instead they pay a subvention to the City Council. But the amount they pay is decided by them without rhyme or reason. The UDP will insist that a formula must be worked out between Government and the City Council that will determine the subvention paid by government based on principle rather than prejudice. The UDP Council will also increase its revenue with Municipal Fairs, Municipal Lotteries and other fund-raising measures.

#### A New System of City Government

The UDP City Council will establish a new expanded system of City Government. Under this modern system of government, four city departments under Councillors as Commissioners or department heads will be established. These are:

1. The Chairman of the Board of Finance who heads the Department of Finance.
2. The Commissioner of Works and Equipment who heads the Department of that name.

The Commissioner for Personnel who heads a department looking after the welfare and training of the City's employees.

4. The Commissioner of Health and Environment who heads that department. The Chairman of the Board of Finance and the Commissioners will form with the Mayor a consulting cabinet to formulate policies and plans and direct the efficient implementation of the Council's decisions.

The UDP City Council will also establish Neighbourhood Councils supervised by Councillors and comprised of neighbourhood residents so that the Council may better determine and serve the needs of all the people of the City. The UDP City Council will re-activate the City-to-City relationship Belize City has with Ann Arbor, Michigan under the Michigan Partners Programme.

#### 'Illegal' Action by Elections Officer

Belize City THE BEACON in English 26 Nov 83 pp 1, 10

[Text] Chief Elections Officer Mr. Roy G. Young has been accused of taking illegal action against authorised candidates and canvassers of the UDP, who are seeking to copy data and photos from the election files held under his control. [as published]

Under the election statutes, any person authorised by the Chairman of a political party is authorised to copy or take extracts from the election files, which are public records.

But the Chief Elections Officer has refused to allow any copying by camera, video tape or other photo-copying equipment.

The UDP suspects that there is a wide range of double registration, and wants to get photos registered at the various sub-offices for comparison. There is no way to draw a photograph with pen or pencil for such comparison.

The confrontation has caused UDP Chairman Dean Lindo to fire off a strong letter of demand to Elections and Boundaries Commission Chairman Tom Sabido, who has reportedly joined Young in claiming that they are acting under instructions.

Instructions from whom? Their political bosses in Belmopan?

If this is so, both should be relieved from their offices of trust.

A UDP source has stated that if this matter is not satisfactorily resolved, it will be taken to the Supreme Court, and an order of the Chief Justice will be sought.

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 27 Nov 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Elections and Boundaries Commission, the apparatus which controls the election machinery in the country, this week reneged on a promise to open its files to inspection to the opposition United Democratic Party.

Mr. Roy Young, Secretary of the E & B Commission, had offered to co-operate all the way and show the UDP inspectors everything they wanted to see. But when the opposition team arrived early this week with video camera to record every face and name on the voters' list, Young became suddenly very un-cooperative, even belligerent.

He told the opposition team that he had received instructions from Belmopan not to allow any video-taping of the records and invited them to leave the premises.

Since the incident Mr. Young has not visited the Elections and Boundaries Commission office during the day, but a watchman employed by the opposition to watch the office reported that Young went to the office on Tuesday night after nine o'clock and spent about two hours inside.

Mr. Hubert Elrington, one of the lawyers for the UDP and a City Council candidate, has filed an injunction in the Supreme Court, asking for a court order to go in and inspect the records and to make such video taping and photographic records suitable for checking against fraud. The UDP has alleged that there are many duplications on the electoral list of persons who register more than once under different names, using different addresses. The only way to check this is to compare every single photograph to find out where the duplications are.

Under the Independence Constitution the Elections and Boundaries Commission is an independent body made up of a Chairman and four others appointed by the Governor General. Its purpose is to direct and supervise the registration of voters and to conduct democratic elections and all matters relevant.

Section 88 (9) of the Belize Constitution states that "in the exercise of its functions under this Constitution the Commission shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority and shall, consistently therewith, act in accordance with the Representation of the People Ordinance 1978 (a)."

In practice however, Mr. Roy Young runs the Elections and Boundaries Commission as his own private preserve and takes his instructions only from the Ministers in Belmopan.

Observers have been noting for some time now that unless the Elections and Boundaries Commission is cleaned up, there can be no prospect for free and honest elections in Belize.



## Attempts on Aikman's Life

Belize City THE BEACON in English 26 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] Within two days, two attempts were made this week in the life of UDP candidate Derek Aikman.

On Wednesday morning Mr. Aikman, about to leave for work, was about to enter the van when he noticed that the hub-cap for one of the wheels was lying on the ground. An inspection of the vehicle revealed that all nuts were removed from four wheels. Aikman could have been involved in a major accident.

The following morning, Mr. Aikman discovered that the doors of his vehicle and its padlocked hood were broken, but nothing was stolen from the vehicle. A closer inspection of the vehicle revealed that there were foreign wires planted in its engine section, a clear indication of an attempt to blow up the vehicle.

The PUP has had a history of using violence at election time. Over past years, there have been attempts to burn down two buildings housing UDP Headquarters; and there is the incident of the shooting of Shubu Brown and other UDP supporters by Silky Stuart at a political meeting.

This type of politics is bad for the city and the country, and should be immediately discouraged.

The Police must take decisive action, if matters of this sort are not to be blown out of proportion.

## Campaign Violence

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 27 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] VIOLENCE or the threat of violence has begun to show its ugly head in the current campaign leading up to the December City Council elections. Mr. Derek Aikman, one of the UDP candidates, reports that he woke up one day this week to find that the hub-cap from one of the front tires of his car had been removed. Upon checking he discovered that all the studs for the front wheel had been slackened and removed. A further check showed that all the studs from all the wheels had been removed and the hub caps replaced to mask the tampering. Mr. Aikman has been one of the prime movers in insisting on a thorough check-up of the Elections and Boundaries Commission records, though there is no evidence linking the two incidents. On another day this week Mr. Aikman reported that the lock securing the hood of his car had been broken and a number of ignition wires had been tampered with. Mr. Aikman, who was recently married, thinks that the threat of violence is being directed against himself and



his new bride because of his decision to compete against the ruling People's United Party in the City Council elections.

As the City Council campaign gathers momentum, rostrum speakers from the opposition have been angling out one member of the PUP team for special attention.

Mr. Dorian Barrow, lecturer at BELCAST and former Headmaster of St. Michael's College, has been coming in for a lot of attention. It appears that Barrow, whose tenure as St. Michael's Headmaster lasted only a year, had been asked to resign this post after he had failed to give a satisfactory

explanation about a substantial sum of missing money.

In fairness to Mr. Barrow, the \$11,000 or most of it have since been repaid, but the question remains about just how much Mr. Barrow and his team can be trusted to manage City Council funds.

#### Charge Against PUP Candidate

Belize City THE BEACON in English 26 Nov 83 pp 1, 10

[Text] When the People's United Party made Dorian Barrow a candidate on its mini-man ticket for next month's Belize City Council elections, it also invited scandal of major proportions.

It is a known fact that the principle of responsibility in public office is not held high by the government party. But asking Belize City electorate to vote for a man of Dorian Barrow's checkcard and dishonest past is considered a serious transgression on the intelligence of Belize City public.

Barrow's most serious transgression against the public occurred during the period (1st September, 1980 to 31st August 1981) that he served as Headmaster of St. Michael's College. He was summarily kicked from that post when it was found that more than Eleven Thousand Dollars (\$11,000.00) in school fees and fund raising money was missing from the College's accounts.

Following a heated meeting of the College's Board of Governors, at which Dorian Barrow was threatened with criminal action, he promised to make arrangements to repay the missing funds. Attorney-at-Law Mr. Derek B. Courtenay was reportedly appointed to make the arrangements for Barrow to repay the College. Among those sitting on the Board of Governors at the time of Dorian Barrow's "trial" were Bishop Keith McMillan, Appeal Judge Albert L. Staine, former College Headmaster Harry Pilgrim, Attorney-at-Law Wilfred Elrington, Canon Eric Richards and businessman David Prince.

This is only the major of a series of money incidents involving PUP candidate Dorian Barrow. There was the money scandal that broke while he was an officer in the Cycling Association; there is the fact the Bank of Nova Scotia was obliged to appoint a special officer to deal with matters in which he is involved, simply because the Bank became suspicious whenever his name is mentioned.

Quite on another plain, it is recalled that in 1981 Dorian Barrow was arrested and charged with manslaughter following the killing of an infant

In a traffic accident. That case never came to Court, and the public is still wondering why.

What emerges is that the government party has no respect for the electorate of Belize City.

CSO: 3298/233/234/235

## CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY COMMENTS ON DEFENSE POLICY

Punta Gorda TOLEDO STAR in English 13 Nov 83 p 3

[Text] In view of the fact that:

- a) Guatemala has categorically stated that she does not recognize the Independence, the Government or the land or sea borders of Belize, but that she calls for negotiations of the dispute with Great Britain,
- b) Guatemala has stated acceptance of the Contadora Group, its performance and the recommendations of that group in its search for a solution to the security, democratic and economic welfare of Central America,
- c) The Government of Belize is emphasizing and pursuing defence guarantee when all friendly and capable nations have repeatedly refused to give Belize a defence commitment. In consequence, the Government of Belize sees it legitimate to seek defence from Soviet-Cuban block in the Caribbean and Central America with which the P.U.P. leadership is ideologically compatible,

The Christian Democratic Party states without reservation that although defence may be necessary in the short-term, a peaceful, negotiated solution to the Anglo-Guatemalan Dispute is the route to pursue. The defence route is inimical and filled with unpleasanties and does not enhance the desired values and objectives of democracy, peace, economic-political development and security of Central America and Belize. Instead, it fosters disunity and hostility.

The Christian Democratic Party therefore calls upon the Government of Belize, that if it does not have a better alternative, to approach England and Guatemala to seek out five acceptable nations from within the United Nations to study the Dispute and make recommendations for a solution, as stated in the letter of Jan 12th 1983 from Dr Aranda to the Prime Minister of Belize.

CSO: 3298/235

## TOLEDO STAR TAKES POKE AT 'COMMUNIST' PAPER DISWEEK

Punta Gorda TOLEDO STAR in English 13 Nov 83 p 4

[Text] DISWEEK has taken up for Maurice Bishop, Bernard Courd and General Austin, denouncing the OECS-USA rescue operation of Grenada. Its Oct 28th special issue was dedicated to the Grenadian cause. From this issue, Belizeans can have no doubts that DISWEEK is a pro-communism newspaper.

It is strange that even though it praises Bishop, it did not support the OECS and the USA who went into the island to apprehend Bishops's killers. [as published] Is DISWEEK supporting those culprits? Instead it makes an issue as if it was the USA that toppled Bishop, when in fact it was Courd & Austin.

If Bishop was doing such a good job as it says, then DISWEEK should direct its wrath at Bishop's assassins and not at the Eastern Caribbean nations & the USA. Or is it that DISWEEK agreed with the more radical communists who did away with Bishop, and it is now annoyed that the USA frustrated the plans of Bishop's killers to make Grenada an out and out communist state?

CSO: 3298/235

## PARAQUAT SPRAYING TO DESTROY MARIJUANA CONDEMNED

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 20 Nov 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

THE FIRST, and as far as we can tell, the only official statement about government's aerial sprayings with Paraquat to control marijuana cultivation has come in an editorial printed in the October issue of the government organ, the New Belize.

The New Belize lists a number of reasons why the government has been forced to act against the marijuana growers. It points to the rapid spread of marijuana cultivation as a cash crop throughout the land and mentions the increase in the number of violent crimes including murders which accompany the new vice. The editorial notes that the drug has caused immense suffering to perhaps millions of men, women and children and compares its flourishing growth in Belize to a "new type of imperialism."

The editorial makes the point that because of the rapid expansion in cultivation practices, aerial spraying using powerful chemicals is the only practical way to control marijuana growth. The chemical used, the editorial observes with some satisfaction, has had the dual effect of killing off the marijuana centers (three thousand plantations at last count) and discouraging people who would normally be willing to buy the crop.

In our view the editorial writer and the government which it seeks to justify are missing the point about aerial sprayings. Apart from a small but growing lobby of

men who argue that the material wealth that the marijuana trade brings out-weighs the ill effects which it produces on people, nobody is seriously arguing that marijuana traders should be left alone. It is precisely because they have been left alone for too long that the problem has grown out of control. If anything, Government should have intervened with firmness years ago instead of turning a blind eye to the drug menace.

But this sin of omission is no justification for the other extreme of over-reacting and using methods which are vicious and barbarous.

The moral objection to the marijuana trade is not that the government gets no tax benefit from it, or the fact that the United States Government would like to see it banned. The moral objection to marijuana is the objection which society has to all mind-altering habit-forming drugs. It is simply that they attack and destroy the mind as a prelude to attacking and destroying the bodies of persons who use them. The reason why we cannot measure the millions of dollars of marijuana "benefits" against the evil effects which the drug produces is simply that one cannot measure money against misery. One cannot measure the spiritual value of a single intellect, or soul or body in terms of dollars and cents.

Each soul is infinitely precious. Every human mind is a gem beyond compare. A man by using his freewill may choose to destroy his own mind and damn his own soul; but he should never be permitted the infamy of destroying or helping to destroy another person's mind. This and this alone is the moral basis for society's implacable opposition to the use of marijuana and the cultivation and trafficking of this dangerous drug.

Government has an obligation to discourage and destroy the marijuana trade as well as to discourage the use of marijuana among its own citizens, but not at the price of putting other human lives in jeopardy or doing anything which will affect the health or environment of a given community.

The medical evidence is overwhelming that the chemical being used to control marijuana - Paraquat - is a deadly poison which works powerfully and silently to

affect people's health. Already in Corozal there has been some suspicious illness and at least one death which appears to have been Paraquat-related. More of these cases may turn up in the future.

We think that the Belize Government is resourceful enough to find other alternatives to Paraquat. There are other weed-killers which are safer for man and beast. Even if aerial spraying is the only practical way to control large-scale illegal cultivation in remote areas, the government should and must use other chemicals which are not lethal to man.

CSO: 3298/235



## BRIEFS

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY--The Central Statistical Office of the Ministry of Finance is conducting a country-wide Labour Force Survey to assess the employment-unemployment situation in the country. The survey will also help to determine the level of underemployment and the type of manpower available in the country. The field work will begin during the third week of November and is expected to be completed by December 20. The training of supervisors and interviewers is already in progress. Present indicators, according to the 1980 population census, puts employment at 86% and unemployment at 14% of the economically active population of 46,457. [Text] [Belize City DISWEEK in English 11 Nov 83 p 5]

CSO: 3298/236

## FIGUEIREDO VISIT TO ALGERIA MAY DOUBLE TRADE

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Nov 83 p 9

[Article by Marielza Augelli]

[Text] Algiers--Trade exchange between Brazil and Algeria, which totaled \$550 million in 1981, should exceed \$1 billion next year. The first step toward doubling the export and import totals for trade between the two countries was taken during the official visit paid by President Figueiredo to Algeria, which ended yesterday morning. The next development will occur during the first meeting of the mixed cooperation commission established by the two governments, in which all sectors, both private and public, interested in developing new projects or endorsing the operations in progress will participate. This meeting is scheduled for the first quarter of 1984 and will be held in Algiers.

According to the information obtained in Algiers from representatives of the government and private businesses, President Figueiredo's visit came at the ideal time. This is because, beginning on 19 December, the businessmen, politicians and other invited guests will begin discussing the new five-year plan for the development of the country with the Central Committee of the National Liberation Front (FLN) Party, resulting in the establishment of the priorities for the country's trade relations between 1984 and 1988.

At this fifth congress of the FLN, President Chadli Bendjedid is to be chosen as the single party candidate for the presidential elections in February. Certain of his reelection, he has already accepted an official invitation to visit Brazil soon, in the first half of the coming year, at which time he will also visit Mexico and other countries in Central America.

In the view of diplomatic sources, President Figueiredo's visit to Algeria had as its main goal the permanent establishment of trade relations between the two countries, since to date, the trade initiatives have been isolated, with ups and downs working in favor of certain enterprises in particular. They include Volkswagen, which has succeeded in placing 54,000 Kombis and Passats on the Algerian market since 1977, and Fiat, which has 12,000 Fiorinos (light trucks) in operation here since 1981. This is the reason for the importance of the meeting, with both governments recognizing the need to develop South-South trade, at a time of world recession, when the countries in the North have not offered any special conditions for the countries in the process of development.

Thus, while the presidential visit confirmed this "institutional framework" for trade relations between Brazil and Algiers, with government sponsorship, along with private enterprises, of economic, technical and scientific cooperation, this process began much earlier.

The first indication that Brazil would be interested in closer trade policy relations with Algeria came with the visit to Algiers in 1979 by Helio Beltrao, then minister of debureaucratization, as the Brazilian government's representative delegated to participate in the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the Algerian independence struggle. Then in 1982, Minister of Finance Ernane Galveas, accompanied by a delegation of 120 businessmen, was delegated to sign a financial protocol between the two countries guaranteeing the establishment of a \$320 million credit line, and also involving Brazil in the program for the construction of 100,000 housing units in that country.

In February of that year, Carlos Viacava, who was at that time secretary general of finance, accompanied by a delegation of 50 businessmen and other government officials had a discussion with the Algerian authorities on the potential for foreign trade in general, with an intensification of opportunities for Brazil to sell agricultural and manufactured products and consumer goods. Later that year, the vice-president of the Brazilian Association for the Development of Basic Industries (ABDIB), Osmar Bittar, visited Algiers with a group of 30 businessmen to discuss a plan for collaboration and talks in greater depth on projects in the metallurgical products sector generally.

On the other hand, the agreements signed since 1974--contracts on maritime transportation, trade, technical, scientific and technological cooperation, and even provisions for the establishment of a mixed commission entrusted with the study of the most urgent interests of the two countries, were ratified during President Figueiredo's visit to Algeria. According to Brazilian and Algerian observers, the impact of the coming visit of the Algerian president to Brazil, in the first quarter of 1984, will be still greater, since the Algerian authorities are more aware of the real Brazilian situation.

In any case, there is every indication that the main products Brazil exports to Algeria will continue to be the same, in other words sugar, coffee and tobacco, in the farm sector, and equipment goods, above all in the metallurgical sector, for the development of rail transport, and also equipment goods and services, such as the construction of dams and public buildings.

Although all government sectors have said that the development of individual projects was not discussed during President Figueiredo's visit to Algeria, it can be stated that at least one major project by a Sao Paulo enterprise has already been defined. The Guaranta Construction Company, S. A. has already signed a contract for the financing and execution of the headquarters building for the Algerian Ministry of Finance, costing \$40 million, with 60 percent Brazilian financing.

Public bidding for the execution of the work brought in bids from 31 international enterprises, including firms in Sweden, Japan and Spain, but the bid

for construction of the five-story building was awarded to Brazil. It will occupy a plot of 30,000 square meters, and the electrical installations, elevators, internal television and robbery alarm circuits, as well as other equipment, will be imported from Brazil. The director and president of Guaranta, David Primo Lattes, says that the work will begin within 3 months.

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CSO: 3342/35

POLISH SHIP PURCHASED TO ALLEVIATE DEBT PROBLEM

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Dec 83 p 11

[Text] Porto Alegre--Minister of Navy Adm Maximiano da Fonseca acknowledged yesterday in Rio Grande do Sul's city of Rio Grande that the Brazilian Government's purchase of a new Antarctic research ship from Poland--covered by a letter of intent whose final details are still being negotiated--is one more way settled on for recovering in the form of merchandise at least part of the almost \$2 billion owed to Brazil by the Polish Government. The minister also said that in fact, "the best choice would be a different ship--from Finland"--but that because of the difficulties in the Brazilian trade balance, his ministry had decided to order a vessel from Poland.

He admitted that Poland is "recalcitrant" about permitting the value of the order--he does not know the exact figures, but says that the price is over \$20 million--to be counted as partial payment on the debt. But he said he hoped that the Secretariat of Planning (SEPLAN) would reach agreement with the Polish Government within 2 months. If Poland does not agree to the conditions calling for deducting the amount of the contract from its total debt, the order will be canceled.

The ship, which is intended to have a capacity of 2,000 tons, will be designed specifically for research, unlike the first ship acquired by Brazil. That first ship--the "Barao de Teffe"--is a support ship. The minister also announced that the order could be filled by Brazilian shipyards, but he said that the government "doesn't have the cruzeiros for an investment of that kind." After the "Barao de Teffe," Poland offered Brazil another vessel, but according to the minister, the Ministry of Navy rejected it because it was not suitable for navigation in the Antarctic. If the project covered by the letter of intent is carried out, the new ship will also be used for other purposes, such as delimiting the exclusive economic zone in Brazil's coastal waters.

In Rio Grande yesterday, Maximiano da Fonseca inaugurated the Antarctic Support Station (ESANTAR), a logistic support center which, as he said, will be used to store materials for use in expeditions to Antarctica not only by Brazil but also by other countries. The advantage of ESANTAR in the city of Rio Grande is that a complete infrastructure for maritime support and scientific research exists in its vicinity. It is also near the last port in Brazilian territory for ships headed south.

Shortly before the inauguration, the minister presided over a meeting by the CIRM (Interministerial Commission for Ocean Resources), where the members were informed concerning final preparations for Brazil's second expedition to the Antarctic, which will leave on 3 January 1984. Maximiano da Fonseca announced that Brazil is not yet thinking of exploiting Antarctic economic resources because first it must be familiar with the region in detail. And ESANTAR will be important in that connection because it will become a training center for personnel in the future.

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CSO: 3342/32

## NOVEMBER INFLATION AT 8.4 PERCENT; PASTORE FORECAST REPORTED

## Analysis of Inflation

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Dec 83 p 24

[Text] The rate of inflation reported in November, calculated without any adjustment (correction) by the Brazilian Economic Institute of the Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV), was in fact 8.4 percent, as had been predicted day before yesterday by the director of that institution, Julian Chacel. This is the third lowest monthly rate during the year (the lowest was that in February, 6.5 percent, which was followed by that in May--6.7 percent), almost 9 percentage points below the October rate, which reached 13.3 percent.

Taking the corrections made by the FGV in the period between June and October into account, the cumulative rate for the period from January through November was 155.9 percent, and that for the past 12 months, 171.6 percent. Without correction, the cumulative increase during the year was 189.1 percent. This increase came to a total of 206.9 percent during the past 12 months. According to the Getulio Vargas Foundation, no recovery of the lag in relative prices (corrective inflation) was seen in November, and "the reasons for price rises attributed to accidental factors disappeared."

The wholesale price index (IPA), one of the factors in the calculation of inflation, showed an 8.7 percent rate of increase in November, while the consumer price index (IPC) stood at 6.7 percent, and the construction cost index (ICC) showed an increase of 12.1 percent. The adjusted rates for these three indices for the year were 165.3 percent, 142.4 percent and 135.0 percent, respectively. Without correction, the cumulative rates for the period between January and November were 211.0 percent, 155.4 percent and 137.2 percent, respectively. The cumulative increases for the IPA, IPC and ICC, with correction, for the past 12 months were 181.2 percent, 161.3 percent and 140.6 percent. Without correction, these percentages were 229.7 percent, 175.2 percent and 142.9 percent.

## Wholesale Price Index

In the IPA, the greatest increases were seen for raw material non-food items (13.0 percent), machinery, vehicles and equipment (11.6 percent), construction materials (10.6 percent), durable consumer goods (9.4 percent), and domestic utilities (8.8 percent). The largest percentage variations were seen for refined cottonseed oil (118.2 percent), black pepper (60.9 percent),



anthracite coal (55.7 percent), lemons (46.1 percent), oranges (47.9 percent) and lute (44.0 percent), while the greatest percentage influence was seen for crude oil (6.9 percent), oranges (6.6 percent), cotton cloth (4.5 percent), gasoline up to 90 octane (4.2 percent) and crystallized sugar (4.0 percent).

#### IPC and ICC

The greatest increases seen in the IPC were in the prices of clothing (11.4 percent), health care and hygiene (10.9 percent), housing (9.6 percent), personal services (8.8 percent) and home articles (8.4 percent). The greatest percentage variations in this index were for domestic grapes (46.1 percent), lemons (45.0 percent), figs (42.9 percent), tomatoes (40.9 percent) and squash (40.0 percent). The greatest percentage influence was seen for tomatoes (2.4 percent), refined sugar (2.2 percent), lunch counter and restaurant meals (1.6 percent), margarine (1.4 percent) and sandwiches (1.4 percent).

The third factor in the calculation, the ICC, showed a 12.8 percent increase for the manpower item, while the figure for construction materials was 11.6 percent.

#### Inflation To Remain High

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Dec 83 p 30

[Text] Brasilia--Central Bank President Affonso Celso Pastore predicted yesterday that inflation will remain at its 8-9 percent high in the coming months, that the resumption in economic activity will occur at a rate exceeding population growth in 1985, and that a tighter fiscal policy will be combined with conservative monetary policy for the coming year. Pastore confirmed "the end of subsidies" in emergency aid to banks, but he denied that there will be any changes in the compulsory requirements concerning sight deposits. He stated that nothing has been decided as to the anticipated elimination of rural credit and export subsidies in 1984.

In an address to authorized officials of the Central Bank itself, Pastore admitted that the economic rate will continue to decline throughout the first half of the year, reaching stability in the second half of 1984. Within the adjustment process in effect and the resulting drop in inflation, linked with the reduction in the participation of the public sector in the economy, the gross national product (PIB) will increase at a rate higher than population growth in 1985, he said.

Despite the austerity policy in the fiscal sector, the president of the Central Bank said that no rapid decline in inflation can be expected, since the monetary policy will remain conservative, with a gradual tightening of liquidity in the economy. He said that inflation of 8 to 9 percent in the coming months will reflect the "endogenous rate" of Brazilian inflation.

Although some Central Bank technicians defend the thesis which says that containment of the expansion of the monetary base, including primary issues of currency and payment means, paper money in public circulation and more

sight deposits in the Bank of Brazil and the commercial banks, will make increased compulsory requirements necessary in 1984, Pastore said that this measure is not on the agenda for the meeting of the National Monetary Council (CMN) next week.

The rise in the cost of liquid financial aid was also confirmed. The president of the Central Bank said only that there can be no subsidy for bank rediscounts, but he argued that it is the task of the CMN to define the new cost of aid to banks on the 14th of this month. With inflation of 206.9 percent in 12 months, the Central Bank cannot provide financial aid at a cost of 96 to 117 percent per year, when even the annual monetary adjustment comes to 156.6 percent.

Although sources at the ministries of planning and finance and the Central Bank itself believe that it is true that credit subsidies will end in 1984, Pastore gave assurance that the government has not as yet made any final decision on the matter. It has preferred to announce changes in the minimum price policy to prevent speculative requests for the financing of farm marketing--Federal Government Loans (EGF)--in 1984, such as occurred this year.

At the end of the meeting with the certified bank officials, Pastore indicated his willingness to hear any good ideas. However, no one voiced any, among other things because, in 3 months at the Central Bank, Pastore has not achieved the same ease in relating to the staff, as newsmen assigned to the bank sector have also noted, as his predecessor, Carlos Geraldo Langoni, enjoyed.

5157

CSO: 3342/35

## CACEX HEAD FORESEES SURPLUS OF \$6.4 BILLION

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Dec 83 p 13

[Text] From the Rio de Janeiro branch--The trade balance surplus of \$566 million in November raised the cumulative balance for the first 11 months of the year to \$6,048,000,000, representing the achievement a month in advance of the goal of \$6 billion set by the government for this year. It remains possible that a total of \$6.4 billion will be achieved.

In announcing these results in Rio yesterday, the director of the CACEX [Foreign Trade Department], Carlos Viacava, gave his prediction as to the basic guidelines for foreign trade in 1984: elimination of export taxes on farm products, an increase from 2,143 billion cruzeiros to 4,500 billion in export financing, maintenance of the policy of minidevaluation of the cruzeiro and the credit premium on the finished goods tax (IPA) of about 11 percent in 1984.

Export taxes, according to Viacava, will be eliminated by stages, consistent with the decision already adopted by the CMN [National Monetary Council]. Currently, such taxes apply to the extent of 10 percent on cotton and 5 percent on the soybean complex (beans, oil, meal), corn, raw meat, cacao, ramie, hemp, timber and silk. The 5 percent tax will drop by 1 percentage point per month beginning this month and reaching zero in April of 1984. Where cacao is concerned, the tax will be made 3 percent this month, 2 percent in January and 1 percent in February, reaching zero in March of 1984.

## Continuing Minidevaluations

The exchange policy of minidevaluations paralleling inflation will be continued. Viacava said that the government decision provides great benefits for manufactured exports, since the wholesale industrial prices fall below inflation, enabling exporters to continue to profit. In view of these benefits, Carlos Viacava denied any possibility of a maxidevaluation of the cruzeiro.

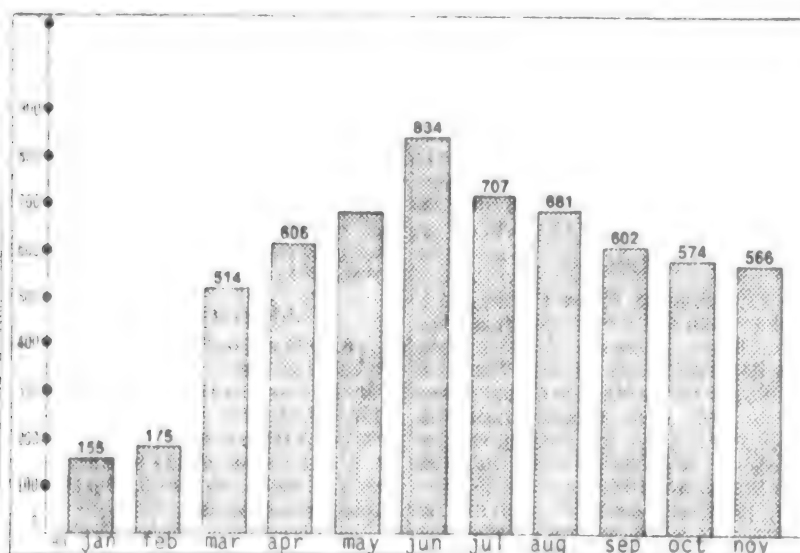
Where export financing resources are concerned, although the matter is settled, Carlos Viacava said, approval by the CMN at its meeting on the 14th of this month is still pending. The resources may be increased from 2,143 billion cruzeiros in 1983 to 4.5 trillion in 1984. In 1983, a half of the resources were spent on financing and the other half on subsidies. As to the financing of Central Bank Resolutions 674 and 643 (incentives for the

export of manufactured products), the interest will be partially eliminated, with some subsidy continuing, according to Carlos Viacava.

Concerning the interest on export financing, Carlos Viacava further explained that the current fixed rate is 60 percent, but it may be made 75 to 80 percent of the monetary adjustment, plus 3 percent per year, in accordance with a proposal being considered by the Monetary Council. Viacava said that the desire to increase interest rates to 90-95 percent of the monetary adjustment plus 3 percent per year is excessive.

The director of the CACEX also announced the following measures designed to guarantee a normal import flow in 1984: decentralization, debureaucratization of the program complex and the issuance of import and exclusion guides, imports under the drawback system, and rules and controls for the import programs.

Trade Balance (in Millions of Dollars)



Accumulation during the year through November--\$6,048 billion

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CSO: 3342/33

## CACEX OFFICIAL VIEWS 1984 \$9 BILLION SURPLUS GOAL AS VIABLE

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Dec 83 p 24

[Text] From the Porto Alegre branch--The head of the Development and Markets Division of the CACEX [Foreign Trade Department], Jose Carlos Coimbra, stated yesterday in Porto Alegre that there are good prospects for Brazilian exports in 1984, which will enable the country to reach the trade balance surplus goal of \$9 billion. In an interview shortly before he delivered an address at the Eighth National Industrial Development Meeting at the Hotel Plaza Sao Rafael, attended by 250 businessmen from various states, Jose Carlos Coimbra stated that the first positive factor for marketing next year is the recovery of the economy in the United States, which is expected to show growth of about 7 percent.

Currently, he recalled, the United States is absorbing 21 percent of Brazil's exports, and there is a potential for Brazil to sell much more, as a result of the recovery in that market and greater aggressiveness. "Brazil is still exploiting the market (in the United States) as a whole inadequately. In other words, it traditionally directs its advertising effort toward the east coast markets, when we could perfectly well win the west coast markets."

In addition to this, the head of the Development and Markets Division of the CACEX went on to say, there are prospects for recovery in the economies of other developed countries and a stabilization of interest rates. To all of these factors is added the strategy the Brazilian government has adopted, calling for abandonment of the multilateral trade scheme, which was basically natural, and adoption of a bilateral scheme. "Brazil has been holding government-to-government talks with a view to resolving the problems of liquidity and non-tariff barriers, especially those of an administrative sort, and will in this way succeed in winning markets," he noted. As a result of this, conditions are favorable for increasing exports in 1984 to various oil-producing countries--Angola, the Soviet Union, China, Mexico, Venezuela and Ecuador.

Jose Carlos Coimbra added that the "basic tool for the development of exports, which is an extremely realistic exchange rate," will be maintained. In addition to this, he stressed that "the great sales tool today, even more than financing exportable production as such, is export credit."

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CSO: 3342/33

# POLL SHOWS DIRECT ELECTIONS FAVORED AS SOLUTION TO CRISIS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Dec 83 p 5

[Text] "It would be easier for Brazil to resolve the crisis" if direct elections for president of the republic were held next year. That is the opinion of most residents in the metropolitan areas of Sao Paulo (45 percent) and Rio de Janeiro (48 percent), according to a poll conducted in November by the Gallup Institute of Public Opinion. Only 11 percent of those in Sao Paulo and 10 percent of those in Rio de Janeiro, including the capitals and municipalities in their metropolitan areas, believe that "it would be more difficult" for Brazil to resolve the crisis if direct elections were held in 1984.

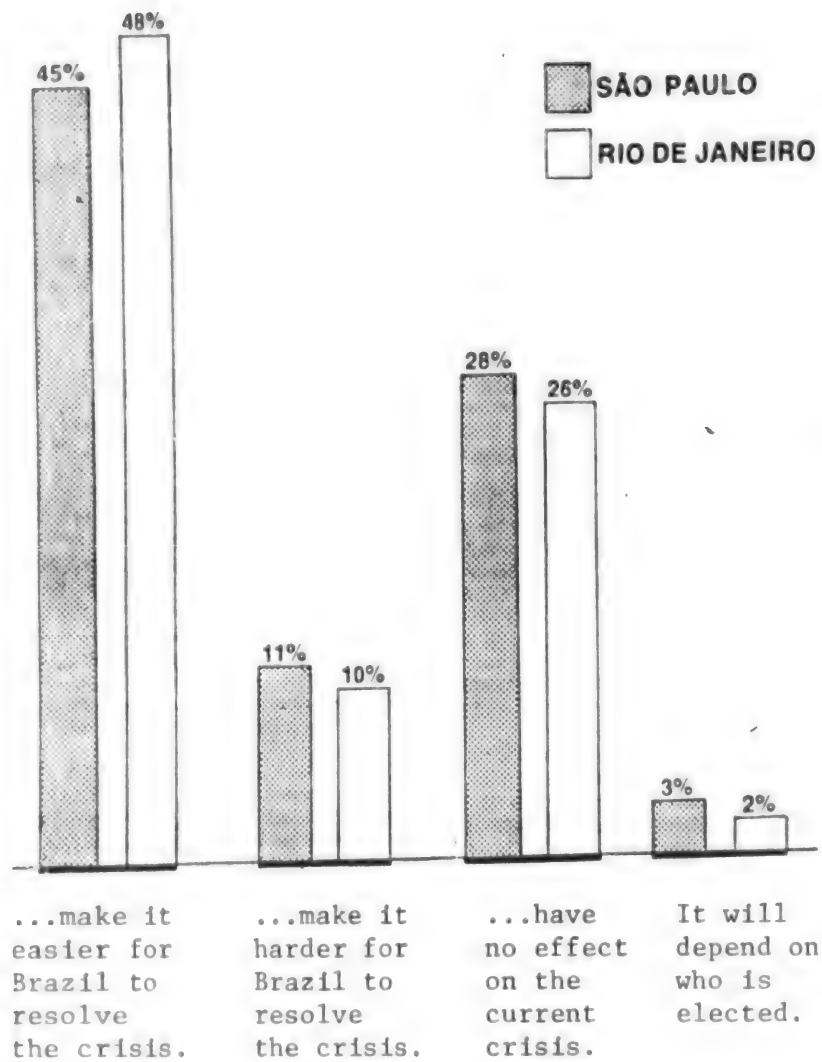
The Gallup poll, which comprised 608 individuals in Sao Paulo and 599 in Rio de Janeiro, also found that 28 percent of those in Sao Paulo and 26 percent of those in Rio de Janeiro feel that holding direct elections for president of the republic would have no effect at all on the current crisis. A small portion of the population--3 percent in Sao Paulo and 2 percent in Rio de Janeiro--feels that the relationship between direct elections and resolving the crisis will depend on who wins the election. Of those interviewed, 13 percent in Sao Paulo and 14 percent in Rio de Janeiro expressed no opinion.

The Gallup poll was based on the premise that, as was true in previous polls, most of the Brazilian population favors direct elections. According to those polls, the percentage of people favoring direct elections rose from 63 percent in 1980 to 79 percent in June 1983. On the other side, 29 percent of the Brazilian population expressed support for indirect elections in 1980, a figure that had dropped to 12 percent by June 1983.

The latest poll also shows that opinions are more sharply defined among men than among women. In Sao Paulo, for example, 50 percent of the men and 41 percent of the women polled said they thought that direct elections would help Brazil resolve the crisis, while 31 percent of the men and 25 percent of the women felt that direct elections would have no effect on the crisis. While 6 percent of the men expressed no opinion on the subject, 19 percent of the women had no opinion. The trend in Rio de Janeiro was practically the same.

Also according to the Gallup poll, the younger people have a greater tendency to feel that direct elections would have no effect on a resolution of the crisis. If we combine the number saying that direct elections have no effect on resolving

Direct elections for president would...



the crisis or that they would make it more difficult, we find that 44 percent of the younger people in Sao Paulo and 40 percent of those in Rio de Janeiro support that position.

In both Sao Paulo (56 percent) and Rio de Janeiro (61 percent), it is the people most interested in political affairs who tend to say that direct elections would help the country resolve the crisis.

Supporters of the PT [Workers Party] in Sao Paulo are those most inclined to believe that direct elections could result in overcoming the crisis (52 percent). Next in line are supporters of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] (49 percent). Their counterparts in Rio de Janeiro are the supporters of the PBT [Democratic Workers Party] (67 percent) and the PMDB (52 percent).

Educational level exerts little influence on the opinions expressed by those polled. In Sao Paulo, 47 percent of the interviewees with a higher education, 41 percent of those with a secondary education, and 48 percent of those with a primary education believe that direct elections would help overcome the crisis. The levels in Rio de Janeiro are slightly higher: 52 percent of those with a higher education, 48 percent of those with a secondary education, and 48 percent of those with a primary education said they held that opinion.

On the opposite side, only 14 percent of those with a higher education, 13 percent of those with a secondary education, and 9 percent of those with a primary education in Sao Paulo feel that restoring direct elections would have no effect on the current crisis.

| <u>Poll Results</u>  |                  |                       |
|--|------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Direct elections for president would:</u>                 | <u>Sao Paulo</u> | <u>Rio de Janeiro</u> |
| ...make it easier for Brazil to<br>resolve the crisis        | 45%              | 48%                   |
| ...make it harder for Brazil to<br>resolve the crisis        | 11               | 10                    |
| ...have no effect at all on the<br>current crisis            | 28               | 26                    |
| Other responses:   |                  |                       |
| It would depend on who was elected<br>(a spontaneous answer) | 3                | 2                     |
| No opinion   | 13               | 14                    |
| Total  | 100%             | 100%                  |

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## GROWING INFLUENCE OF CONGRESS SINCE 1982 ELECTIONS DISCUSSED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Dec 83 p 5

Article by Sergio Chacon: "Congress Regains Its Influence"1

19830 Brasilia--The reestablishment of political negotiation, the end of subordination to the executive branch and new behavior on the part of PDS [Partido Democratico] and the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party] toward political and economic issues--all these have made 1983 one of the most important years for the national congress in the unanimous view of the deputies, senators and political advisers. In their opinion, this period has served to consolidate in practice the formal democracy which had previously only been set forth in the Constitution and the laws.

With a turnover of 50 percent on the parliamentary benches during the general elections of November of 1982, the congress began to assert itself as a real power. Without an absolute majority in the chamber, which it had enjoyed for the past 19 years, the government found itself obliged to negotiate with the parties in order to avoid defeat, lost out when it would not negotiate, and accepted, even quite naturally, the sovereign decisions of the parliamentarians which went against their interests.

"The national congress truly carried out its role as the representative of the people and the supervisor of the actions of the government," the PDS leader Nelson Marchezan acknowledged, noting that in 1983 the politicians really negotiated on matters of interest to the country, no longer simply approving all of the measures proposed by the government without discussion. In addition to this, the work of the Congressional Investigating Committees (CPIs) was intensive. Not only did they place government figures in the dock, as in the cases involving the "polonetas," the bankruptcy of the Ipiranga-Brastel Group and the Capemi Crop and Livestock enterprise, but they also summoned even a former army minister, Gen Sylvio Frota, to make a deposition, without offending revolutionary dignity.

The government of President Figueiredo began to feel that the year 1983 would be different from the others when Dep Flavio Marcilio and Sen Nilo Coelho were elected, without its consent, to head the chamber and federal senate, respectively. The government had other candidates, but it was taken by surprise by the accomplished fact, and had no alternative but to seek the best way to coexist with the leaders elected by the majority of the deputies and senators.

The Planalto Palace then undertook to seek closer relations with the PTB [Brazilian Labor Party] of Ivete Vargas, through leader Nelson Marchezan, who won a place for the PTB faction on the board of the chamber of deputies, going against the position of the PMDB. And throughout the entire year, the government negotiated an agreement with Ivete Vargas which would enable it to recover an absolute majority of votes, essential in order to get the congress to approve the measures necessary for the administration of the country.

The agreement could not be concluded when needed. The PDS, in a minority, had to accept the establishment of the CPIs which the government would never allow to be established. The CPI on foreign debt, the first, lost no time in launching an investigation of the denunciations contained in the Saralva Report, involving Minister Delfim Netto during his time at the Brazilian Embassy in Paris. The CPI on Capemil, also appointed in the chamber, became a court of investigation of public affairs, involving the National Intelligence Service and even a son of the president of the republic. Another, looking into the negotiations between the BNH [National Housing Bank] and the Delfin Group, served in the end to involve Minister of Interior Mario Andreazza, who was considered a likely candidate to succeed President Figueiredo. And finally, in the senate, a special commission was appointed to look into irregularities in the transactions with Poland, which cast suspicion on the conduct of the chief adviser to Minister of Planning Jose Flavio Pecora, who was later identified as the intermediary in the negotiations between the government and the Coroa-Brastel Group.

All of this activity put the government's back against the wall, and it also found itself threatened by the provisions approved for the renegotiation of the foreign debt. The opposition demanded one explanation after another concerning the agreement with the IMF, forcing the planning minister to appear before a plenary session to justify the operations. And had it not been for the aid of the president of the chamber, the members of the opposition might even have vetoed the terms of the agreement signed with the IMF.

It was the economic crisis precisely which forced the government to negotiate with the PDS and with the opposition, in successive efforts to amend the wage policy. First Decree Law No 2012 was sent to the congress, and then it was withdrawn just prior to being defeated. Warned by the PDS leadership, the government negotiated another decree with the PTB, No 2024, which in the end was not submitted to a vote either, being replaced by No 2045.

Although it was recommended as essential to national security and had the endorsement of the National Security Council, Decree Law No 2045 was rejected by the congress. President Figueiredo issued emergency measures in the capital but, despite the state of alert, the parliamentarians again challenged the government, threatening to reject the new decree, No 2064 in this case, issued to replace No 2045. On the eve of another bitter defeat, the government finally yielded, and after negotiations lasting almost a whole day, Decree Law No 2065 was promulgated, providing, in addition to wage reductions, for increases in the tax on capital and the tax on the movement of merchandise. Here finally the government succeeded in establishing a policy of containment to satisfy the IMF and guarantee renegotiation of the debt. The politicians had won.

Another indication of the new era in political affairs was the effort to bring Sen. Mario Sarney of Rio de Janeiro (PPS) to the Senate later Paragi to trial for crimes against the president of the republic and his ministers. Although all of the ministers of state asked the presidency of the chamber to suspend the vote of the deputy-ress on the basis of the provisions pertaining to parliamentary decision, that body decided the matter in sovereign fashion. A written request was issued to the parliamentarian, after negotiations with the government providing that Sarney would formally retract his charges.

The path of negotiation was now open, and by this means, Deputies Theodorico Ferraz of Paragita Santo (PPS) and Joao Paulo de San Paulo (PMDB), as well as Sen. Carlos Caspary of Paragita Santo, had the court cases filed against them in the Federal Supreme Court on charges of offenses against the president and his ministers suspended. It was by the same means that the government succeeded in preventing the national congress from promulgating a military return behind its back, in a process originating in the finance committee of the chamber, with the support of prefects, aldermen, governors and state deputies.

It is true that the legislature too has respected the difficulties the country is experiencing. There was great apprehension concerning the health of the president of the republic, not only in humanitarian terms, but also due to the concern that the possible absence of General Figueiredo might threaten the process of reestablishing democratic practices in the country.

The 1987 elections and the reestablishment of the multiparty system contributed decisively to all this. Having elected governors in nine states, the party ceased to be the radical opposition of the two-party era and became willing to negotiate and to divide the responsibilities of administering the country. Apart from this, the democratic opening sought to bring about a schism within the party of Flosses Guimaraes, which, after breaking into moderate, radical and liberal factions, could no longer adopt adamant positions.

The PDS as seen in 1983 itself is not the same as in earlier years. The party felt that its image was deteriorating in the eyes of the voters and it began to seek more popular support. Encouraged by the fact that leader Nelson Macabeas had done well at the Planalto Palace, the PDS expressed its displeasure with the unpopular measures approved by the government and its desire to exert an influence on the Planalto Palace decisions. The government was slow in seeing that it was no longer enough to command the PDS to obey, and this was made clear at the national party convention in August, when the PDS dissidents won 35 percent of the votes, after forcing the top-1981 leadership to alter the structure of the national board, replacing technocrats with elected politicians.

Finally, 1983 as a political year was also a period of many maneuvers having to do with the presidential succession. Without losing its unity at the key moments, the PDS divided into supporters of the three presidential candidates already campaigning--Paulo Maluf, Mario Andreazza and Aureliano Chaves, in anticipation of the fact that the choice of the successor to President Joao

Figueiredo next year will have to be effected through political channels. And to make it clear that they are not joking, the PSD members ended the political year by informing the president of the party, Sen Jose Sarney, of their decision in favor of retaining the indirect process of choosing the next president.

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CSO: 3342/33

## ELECTORAL SUPPORT OF PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS EVALUATED

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Nov 83 p 4

[Article by Rubem de Azevedo Lima]

[Text] Brasilia--Twenty-three years after Brazil's last direct presidential election, it is the people--that is, 55 million Brazilian voters--who will carry the least weight in the next presidential election campaign. The front-running candidates to succeed Gen Joao Batista Figueiredo are organizing their election support solely on the basis of limited political preferences and interests in an electoral college put together by the political trickery of the "package" of April 1977 and its supplementing legislation.

For those reasons, each candidate is trying to recruit the greatest possible number of members of the electoral college or authorities who can influence them.

In Brasilia on this holiday of 15 November, commemorations of the 23rd anniversary of the last direct presidential election revolved basically around an evaluation of each candidate's possibilities in view of the support already won.

The various balance sheets having been compared and corrected, the picture of preferences is as follows.

#### Who Supports Whom

In principle, Minister of Interior Mario Andreazza has the support of Gen Joao Batista Figueiredo, who, however, does not vote in the electoral college. But Maluf's supporters claim that the president of the republic actually supports Paulo Maluf. Andreazza's supporters say that claim is unjustified. It is, they say, a matter of being sarcastic because in fact, Maluf's supporters feel that the head of the government, while supporting Andreazza, is making so many serious mistakes that what he is actually doing is favoring Maluf's candidacy.

Other Andreazza supporters are Gen Otavio Medeiros, minister-chief of the SNI [National Intelligence Service]; Gen Newton Araujo de Oliveira e Cruz, military commander of Planalto and executor of the emergency plans in the Federal District; Ministers Murilo Macedo (labor), Cloraldino Severo (transportation), Delfim Neto (planning), and Cesar Cals (mines and energy); Governor Jair Soares

of the former deputy, and PDS (Social Democratic Party) Deputies São Carlos (Rio de Janeiro), Antônio Francisco (São Paulo), and Darci Ribeiro (Rio de Janeiro) as well as Antônio Carlos Magalhães, former governor of Bahia, and Governor Jorge Edson of Pernambuco.

Maciel's list of supporters is larger at the moment. In addition to Antônio Amaral Barreto, the former PDS member from São Paulo, it includes former President General Garrastizua Medina; Mrs. Inlandi Costa e Silva, widow of former President Costa e Silva; General Calbetti de Couto e Silva, former chief of the Civilian Household of the Presidency; former Capt. Heitor Aquino, former private secretary to President Figueiredo; Flavio Marcellino and Moacir Dalla, speaker and president respectively of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate; Minister of Justice Alfredo Azeiteiro; General Coelho Neto, former head of the Army Intelligence Center and former chief of cabinet to Minister Valtir Pires; and PDS Deputies Haroldo Sanford (Ceará), Joacil Pereira (Paraíba), Siqueira Campos (Ceará), José Bernardo (Minas Gerais), Ernani Satiro (Paraíba), Teodorico Ferraz (Espírito Santo), Eduardo Galil (Rio de Janeiro), João Carlos de Carli (Pernambuco), Marcelo Pinheiro (Ceará), and other congressmen who are less well known.

Personalities supporting the candidacy of the vice president of the republic, Prof. Aureliano Chaves, include former President Ernesto Geisel; Minister of Air and Space Antônio de Matos; Minister of Industry and Commerce Camilo Pena; Governor Luís Antônio de Góes; Ministers Jarbas Passarinho (welfare and social security) and Leônidas de Abreu (chief of the Civilian Household of the Presidency); Francisco Pereira, former governor of Minas Gerais; former congressmen Daniel Fritzer and João Borja, both PDS leaders in Congress; Deputies Ronaldo Figueira (Minas Gerais), Humberto Souto (Minas Gerais), Herbert Levy (São Paulo), and Augusto Franco (Sergipe); and Senators Albano Franco (Sergipe), Jotaf Magalhães (Bahia), and Luis Viana Filho (Bahia), among other congressmen.

Senator Marcos Maciel's candidacy is supported basically by representatives of the Northeast, starting with Governor Roberto Magalhães (Pernambuco) and Deputy Innocência Oliveira (Pernambuco). It is claimed, however, that Maciel himself and the Pernambucans may move toward supporting Aureliano Chaves.

Former Minister Helio Beltrão's candidacy is not supported by any well-known names in Congress, especially now that he has been fired. Normally, Beltrão and Aureliano belong to the same political and philosophical redoubt that is the PDS, as does Senator Marcos Maciel himself.

Each candidate's list of supporters includes, however, a great deal of bluff and simulated prestige. For example, Mario Andreazza claims to have the support of 420 votes among the delegates to the PDS convention. On the other hand, Maciel, speaking through Calim Eid, his campaign manager, claims that he already has the support of over half the delegates to the PDS convention--that is, over 462 votes out of the 963 PDS delegates who will nominate the party's candidate to succeed General Figueiredo. If those figures are correct, only 61 votes are left over for all the other candidates. But Aureliano Chaves' followers emphasize that he has over 100 absolutely certain votes in his favor at the convention. And that still leaves candidates Maciel and Beltrão, as

well as former Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, who is supported formally only by Joao Durval, governor of Bahia.

A few days ago, at the height of a heated discussion with political reporters, one minister of state announced that he had 20 guaranteed votes in the electoral college under his control.

As can be seen, there is general confusion on this 23rd anniversary of the last direct presidential election.

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CSO: 3342/32



PEREIRA VIEWS GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT PLAN AS INEFFECTIVE

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Nov 83 p 9

[Text] In a statement made yesterday in the Legislative Assembly to the Special Investigating Committee (CEI) dealing with the problem of unemployment, the coordinator of the National Communist Leaders' Group, Giocondo Dias, said it is useless to think of a job plan given a capitalist economy. "We have long known, both through Marxist theoretical analysis and through the concrete experience of the capitalist societies, that the economic system under capitalism necessarily coexists with what we call the industrial reserve army." Until the capitalist production system is done away with, unemployment will be an inescapable reality."

For an hour, the communist leader analyzed the economic crisis, urged overall solutions to the problems of the country, and supported the Interunion Department of Statistics and Socioeconomic Studies (DIESE) proposal that unemployment insurance be established as a mechanism to defend the workers "against the spectre of unemployment." Only three state deputies (Paulo Diniz of the PT [Labor Party], Benedito Cintra of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], and Gilberto Delmont of the PDS [Social Democratic Party], along with 11 assistants, were present at the 15th session of the CEI.

In the opinion of Giocondo Dias, "the Brazilian crisis cannot be understood in isolation from the critical context of the entire capitalist world, and it should further be stressed that there is no sure indication that the world capitalist system can recover in a short period of time. This means that it is naive or deceptive to think that a "recovery" in the Brazilian economy will come about soon as a result of the resumption of development in the central countries. The most likely probability, moreover, is that the recovery of the advanced capitalist countries' economies in the medium time range will impose further additional costs on the economies of the peripheral countries."

The communist leader said that the economic orientation of the government can be seen in "the increasing dependence on imperialism, the deterioration of the industrial park, and more acute social exclusion due to the spread of poverty, and it is for all of these reasons that we communists describe this orientation as a policy of national disaster."

After quoting various figures and statistics on unemployment and stressing that he has no illusions that "capitalism can resolve this problem," Giocondo



Dias agreed the establishment of unemployment insurance, on the basis of the proposal announced by the DIEESE, which calls for the creation of a fund to be administered by the state and financed to the extent of 20 percent from trade union contributions, fines for dismissals, a lottery quota, funds from the FINSIGIAL, and a percentage of enterprise invoice totals.

The next session of the CEI on unemployment is scheduled for 2:30 pm on Tuesday, 29 November, and the national president of the Labor Party, Luis Inacio Lula da Silva, has been invited to attend.

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USO: 3342/33

## DIRECT ELECTIONS THEME DOMINATES PMDB CONVENTION

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Dec 83 p 4

[Text] Brasilia--The need for Brazil to elect the president of the republic directly and homage to the memory of Teotonio Vilela were the themes running through all the speeches, without exception, made in the course of the entire day yesterday by the delegates to the national convention of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party].

It was on behalf of direct elections that the majority of the convention delegates adopted a position opposed to the candidacy of Sen Afonso Camargo of Parana for the post of secretary general of the PMDB. He is one of the "bionic" men. Two addresses in particular, that by the son of former Sen Teotonio Vilela, Teotonio Filho, and that by Sao Paulo Dep Joao Cunha, had a particular effect on the convention delegates.

"I am not the successor to Teotonio Vilela," his son told those at the convention. "It is all of us who are continuing his struggle for national sovereignty, which is threatened by the concessions to the IMF and the international bankers. It is all of us who are continuing the battle for democracy, threatened by those who see in indirect elections the only way of maintaining or winning government privileges and continuing their scandalous practices in the anomalies which have become administrative routine but which offend the honest sensibility of the citizens of Brazil."

Teotonio Filho ended his address to intense applause:

"We will win direct elections for the presidency of the republic, in the same way as we earlier won independence, won abolition, won the republic, and won the right to walk with our heads high. And, looking our children in the eye, we say: Like Teotonio, we too have fulfilled our duty to the fatherland."

## Technocrats

Earlier, Dep Joao Cunha, who spoke during the morning, said that in truth the PMDB "neglected Teotonio, preferring party technocrats to him," when he decided to submit an alternative proposal for the country. "It preferred the studies of those who think that the party is a university." He mentioned by name the economists Celso Furtado and Maria da Conceicao Tavares. Cunha harshly criticized the agreements with the government, calling the contact between his party and the PDS [Social Democratic Party] a "frontal assault,"

and he termed the president of that group a "lifelong cynic and land grabber." He concluded with the statement that yesterday's convention was turning into a "ratification convention, linking everything together, from the bionic issue to dirty trickery."

For 8 consecutive hours, a group of some 100 young men and women, representing the "prosecutors" of the party, demonstrated during each speech, shouting slogans such as "No conciliation; the people want real opposition;" "No to the bionic man; an end to cassation;" "You are with us, Teotonio the Combatant," and others. Tens of times Dep Ulisses Guimarães, who presided at the convention, had to ring his bell and ask the demonstrators for restraint, in almost all cases without results.

Almost at the end of the session, Dep Miguel Arraes stated in his speech that the party should not discuss just positions and names, but the ways and means of struggle and the mobilization needed in order to achieve its chief goals and those of the people. He spoke of the consistent preoccupation of the speakers preceding him, all of whom discussed the candidacy of Sen Afonso Camargo for the position of secretary general.

#### An Insult

If Teotonio were alive, Dep Cristina Tavares of Pernambuco said during her address, "we would have been spared this insult and this bionic provocation. The party is being assassinated by the proposed conciliation." Delegate Selma Bandeira also was categorical in her statement: "If the people do not accept the bionic candidate, we cannot do so." She then addressed an appeal to Sen Afonso Camargo and Gov Tancredo Neves: "Do not destroy the PMDB!"

Alde Arantes, a federal deputy from Bahia; Haroldo Lima, from Minas Gerais, Fausto Arruda, from Ceará, and others, spoke along the same lines. "The candidate of Afonso Camargo is spurious and lacks legitimacy," Arantes said. "Under these conditions, it is not possible to allow him to occupy the post which was that of Chico Pinto, who throughout his life won the popular vote." "How can one speak of consensus and conciliation?" asked Fausto Arruda of Ceará. "The PMDB governors are the first to retreat into their offices whenever a public action is proposed."

Strictly speaking, only three orators indicated readiness to defend conciliation and the candidacy of Afonso Amargo for the post of secretary general openly. Manoel Navarro of Minas Gerais was the first to defend maintenance of the "front" and he spoke of Tancredo Neves and Ulisses Guimarães as "the two great national leaders." In conclusion, he defended the "upward climb" of the party.

Ricardo Zaratini, a former urban guerrilla fighter, defended the nomination of Afonso Camargo, and urged a supraparty front for direct elections. He was consistently booed, and there were shouts of "traitor" from the "prosecutors." Booming again accompanied the speech of Fernando Santana of Bahia, whose earlier mandate was subject to cassation, who criticized concern with details to the detriment of the struggle for larger goals.

## Mobilization of Society Urged

The national convention of the PMDB held yesterday reelected Ulisses Guimarães as president of the party, heading a board of officers with 121 members, and it revealed the split between a large part of the PMDB base, which very emphatically rejected indirect elections and defended the reestablishment of direct elections for the presidency of the republic, and the new party leadership, which avoided approval of the original text of a motion made by Sen. Itamar Franco whereby the party would renounce the right to nominate a candidate for the Electoral College.

The new PMDB board of officers, conservative in the majority, was elected by the votes of 431 convention delegates, while there were 114 null and 8 blank votes. Of the 114 null votes, 73 reflected the reaction of the PMDB members to the new secretary general of the party, the "bionic" Senator Afonso Camargo. To a lesser extent, other names were also crossed off the list of board members, including those of third vice-president Milton Reis and Ulisses Guimarães himself. In the election of the 13 members of the executive board plus the two leaders, there were 89 valid votes, 17 null votes, 8 blank votes and 7 abstentions.

The new executive board of the PMDB, the main leadership nucleus of the party, is made up as follows: president, Ulisses Guimarães; first vice-president, Pedro Simon of Rio Grande do Sul; second vice-president, Miguel Arraes of Pernambuco; third vice-president, Milton Reis of Minas Gerais; secretary general, Afonso Camargo of Paraná; first secretary, Roberto Cardoso Alves of São Paulo; second secretary, Cacildo Maldaner of Santa Catarina; treasurer, Nereu Rangel, of Ceará; and voting members, Francisco Pinto, of Bahia (who may resign); Elvira da Veiga, of Minas Gerais; Carlos Vinagre, of Pará; and Cid Sampaio, of Pernambuco.

The work of the convention was characterized by the acute reaction to the nomination of Afonso Camargo for the post of secretary general by Governor of Minas Gerais Tancredo Neves. At the end, Ulisses Guimarães stated that "it was the party which won. We practice internal democracy. This is not the first time we have experienced a situation like this."

In the view of the president of the PMDB, "the most important mission of the new officers is to dynamize and mobilize society in favor of direct elections." When asked if, now that he has been reelected, he would climb the Palace ramp, he answered: "This matter of the ramp is a party decision." According to Ulisses Guimarães, the "noisy demonstrations" which occurred at the convention "reveal the differences in the party, but basically, the PMDB continues united in defense of direct elections and in the battle against the economic policy, unemployment and corruption."

Former secretary general Francisco Pinto thinks differently. He stated that the new PMDB executive board was structured with a view "to equalizing the party with the government," and for this reason it is not yet known if he will serve in his post as voting member.

In order to respond to the positions of the party leadership, a group of parliamentarians joined together in the Teotônio Vilela Group. The announcement of its establishment was sponsored by Teotônio Vilela Filho.

Tancredo Neves, in turn, indicated willingness to assume open sponsorship of the candidacy of the new secretary general, stating that "not even if Afonso Camargo were to beg me would I agree to his resignation." The governor of Minas Gerais is now seeking to consolidate the control he has apparently come to have over the party, sponsoring the candidacy of Carlos Santana of Bahia for the post of PMDB leader in the chamber.

#### The Structure of the New Board of Directors

In addition to Ulisses Guimarães and leaders Humberto Lucena (Senate) and Freitas Nobre (Chamber), the new board of directors of the PMDB includes the following:

Governors: Tancredo Neves, Franco Montoro, Jose Richa, Iris Rezende, Gerson Camata, Jader Barbalho, Gilberto Mestrinho, Nabor Junior, and Wilson Martins.

Candidates defeated for state government posts: Gilvan Rocha, Jaison Barreto, Pedro Simon, Mauro Benevides, Waldomiro Teixeira, Marcos Freire, Jose Costa, Aluisio Alves, Renato Archer, Antonio Mariz, Roberto Santos, Alberto Silva, and Padre Pombo.

Senators: Humberto Lucena, Helio Gueiros, Alfredo Campos, Afonso Camargo, Cid Sampaio, Fabio Lucena, Mauro Borges, Itamar Franco, Severo Gomes, Saldanha Derzi, and Cid Sampaio.

Deputies: Freitas Nobre, Ademir Andrade, Aldo Arantes, Alencar Furtado, Dante de Oliveira, Francisco Pinto, Haroldo Lima, Ibsen Pinheiro, Jackson Barreto, Jarbas Vasconcellos, Joao Hermann, Jose Fogaca, Luis Guedes, Marcio Santilli, Mario Frota, Miguel Arraes de Alencar, Paes de Andrade, Pimenta da Veiga, Plinio Martins, Paulo Mincarone, Alberto Goldman, Carlos Mosconi, Casildo Maldaner, Epitacio Cafeteira, Fernando Santana, Helio Duque, Irajá Rodrigues, Marcio Braga, Odilon Salmoria, Raul Ferraz, Roberto Freire, Roberto Rollemberg and Sinval Guazeli.

PMDB members without a mandate: Waldir Pires, Jeronimo Santana, Orestes Quercia, Paulo Brossard, Chagas Rodrigues, Celso Furtado, Hugo Perez, Mario Martins, Maria Conceicao Tavares, Marcia Valeria, Odacir Klein, Paulo Rattes, Joao Menezes, Odilon Coutinho, Antonio Russo, Garcia Neto, Jaime Cannet, Joao Eliseo, Joao Linhares, Amazonas Brasil and Celso Saleh.

#### April Meeting Scheduled

By 15 April of next year, the PMDB must hold a special convention to establish its position on the presidential succession formally. This was the main motion approved at the national convention yesterday. With Sen Itamar Franco of Minas Gerais as its author, the motion also rejected the indirect election process, the Electoral College and the interim mandate.

The proposal of Itamar Franco met with resistance within the party, since in its original form it provided that the PMDB would immediately "renounce the right to nominate candidates for the presidency until such time as the democratic rules proposed by former deputy Miro Teixeira of Rio de Janeiro were reestablished and accepted by the reporter for motions, Sen Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Sao Paulo," who regarded this "pertinent and consistent with the feelings of the party militants." The handling of the issue will be entrusted to the party executive board.

As to the succession process, the convention also approved a proposal by Dep Jose Fogaca of Rio Grande do Sul for the holding of primary elections by the party, with the full membership participating, to choose the PMDB candidate who will compete in the direct elections. Another proposal by Dep Sinval Guazell of Rio Grande do Sul was also approved and sent to the executive branch, asking for the drafting of a campaign schedule for the direct election.

In all, 23 motion were approved (only two, because they dealt with specific problems which were not pertinent to the national convention, were rejected). A number of them had to do with former senator Teotonio Vilela, who was made honorary president (motion submitted by Ulisses Guimaraes) and patron of the PMDB (motion by the Brasilia party delegation).

In his report, Fernando Henrique stressed the aspect of the party as a symbol and the democratic struggle waged by the former senator from Alagoas and his influence on the party. Also on the subject of homage to him, the motion proposed by Dep Manoel Arruda calling for the building of a Teotonio Vilela memorial was approved.

In connection with foreign policy, the convention approved a memorandum expressing solidarity with the people of Nicaragua.

The National Women's Executive Coordination Board of the PMDB held lively meetings during the day yesterday, producing a motion and a letter to the nation. In the motion, read by State Dep Ruth Escobar, the women of the PMDB criticized the presence of a bionic man on the executive board, "one of the most rejected figures, and the product of the machinations of the authoritarian system we condemn."

The "Manifesto of the PMDB Women to the Brazilian Nation" was read by the president of the party, Dep Ulisses Guimaraes, at the close of the convention. In this manifesto the women analyzed their own role, protesting the discrimination which they suffer in society, and above all within the PMDB.

The points urged by the PMDB women were summarized in five demands: direct elections for the presidency of the republic; a free, sovereign and democratic constituent assembly; a unilateral moratorium; national sovereignty; and definitive emancipation for women.

## BELT-TIGHTENING OF SAO PAULO'S MIDDLE CLASS DISCUSSED

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Dec 83 p 37

[Article by Cecilia Pires: "Middle Class Cuts Back on Services, Meat and Even Visits to the Hairdresser"]

[Text] It costs 157.11 percent more to be middle-class in Sao Paulo today than it did last year. This calculation is derived from the Middle Class Cost-of-Living Index drafted by the Sao Paulo Order of Economists, and it is valid for the period between October 1982 and October 1983. If the successive wage decrees this year, which have corroded the purchasing power of the average wage earner, are taken into account, the actual impoverishment is much greater.

On the basis of studies made by Jose Tiacci Kirsten, an assistant professor in the faculty of economics at the USP [Sao Paulo University], the salary adjustments up until October were effected on the basis of a miscellaneous assortment of legal tools, which changed the earnings of the middle class to a greater or lesser extent, but always negatively: Law No 6886, in effect until the end of January, and Decree Laws 2012, 2024, and even 2045. According to this schedule, those earning 10 minimum wages (lower middle class) had lost 11.7 percent in terms of the INPC [national consumer price index] up to October. Those receiving 20 minimum wages (middle middle class) lost 22.4 percent in terms of this index, and those receiving 30 minimum wages (upper middle class) lost 38.8 percent.

This did not take into account the methodological differences between the official index (INPC) and the general price index (IGP) calculated by the Getulio Vargas Foundation, which shows a difference of 16 percent. If this discount were taken into account, according to Tiacci Kirsten, the losses for the three middle-class strata up to October would come respectively to minus 28 percent, minus 38 percent and minus 56 percent, again in relation to the increase in living costs in the same period.

## Household Budget

In the middle-class household budget, the greatest increase was seen in the food category, up 238.5 percent in the past 12 months, to October, followed by health, up 157.5 percent in the same period. In the view of Tiacci Kirsten, the middle class did not suffer as much as the strata with less purchasing power from the increase in food prices, which accounts for only



30 percent of middle-class domestic budgets as compared to 45 percent of the expenditures of the lower classes. Even so, the rise in prices caused changes in behavior. Imported beverages were replaced by domestic brands and the market sought to adapt itself to the new times, making an effort through more attractive packaging to win over a new consumer sector.

The middle strata did not, as the low-income population did, give up the consumption of meat, but they did make quality adjustments, since the price of a kilogram of beef, which was 674.6 cruzeiros in October of 1982, had increased to 2,452 cruzeiros a year later. Imported oil, which cost 553 kilograms per liter earlier but increased to 1,965 cruzeiros, began to be sold in small 250-milliliter cans. The loss of purchasing power led to budget cuts in the category termed "general expenditures." This includes luxuries, leisure time or cultural items. The average price of a movie ticket, for example, increased from 459 cruzeiros to 1,189 cruzeiros in October. The average annual fee for club membership increased during the same period from 2700 cruzeiros to 6,633 cruzeiros.

According to Tiacci Kirsten, the middle class is beginning to dismiss servants and to give up weekend trips and visits to the hairdresser, but there is still reluctance to withdraw children from private schools, since education is a category regarded as untouchable when it comes to cuts. The transfer of students from private to public schools, however, increased this year, with many schools, especially in the prefectural system, unable to accept any more enrollments for 1984 classes. Another phenomenon seen has been the search for less expensive private schools, the last effort on the part of the middle class to maintain for its children a supposedly better level of education.

#### Failure to Pay

The drop in the purchasing power of the middle strata and the resulting decline in consumption are reflected in the Trade Association data on suits for payment in the capital. In the ready-made garment sector, the value of bills in default increased by 334.5 percent for the period between January and September 1983, as compared to the equivalent period the preceding year. In the watchmaking, costume jewelry and gem sector, which depends basically on middle-class consumption, an increase of 756.4 percent was seen in the value of bills in dispute for the same period. In the vehicle, replacement parts and accessories sector, the value increased by 135.9 percent, and in the sector including household appliance, plumbing fixtures and articles for domestic use, the increase was 258.3 percent.

In the construction materials and hardware sector, the value of unpaid bills increased by 229 percent, revealing a rise in nonpayment rather than in prices, since the price index for civil construction in Sao Paulo showed a 131.3 percent increase from October 1982 to October 1983.

In Rio, these prices went up 125.5 percent during the same period, as compared to inflation of about 197.2 percent. The phenomenon can also be seen in the real estate market where, in an effort to attract the demanding but



Impoverished middle class, three-bedroom apartments near the elegant part of Sao Paulo, in Morumbi, are being offered in enclosed condominiums, with all the conveniences of a class A building, but with only one bathroom, and at less prohibitive prices.

#### No More Movies or Shrimp

The middle class in the large cities (including those earning 10 to 30 minimum wages) rarely goes to the movies or the theater, has cut down restaurant meals to two or three times a month, can no longer remember how much shrimp costs, and is economizing greatly on gasoline, such that there is no need for campaigns to encourage savings on domestic fuel or maintenance of the last remaining dollars in the coffers of the national treasury. There are only two choices for a middle-class family: to reduce expenditures drastically, abandoning the standard of living to which it was accustomed 2 or 3 years ago, or to quadruple efforts to maintain the lost paradise.

There are those who combine the two choices somewhat. A language teacher (Portuguese and English), Gabriela Maria Dutra de Carvalho, has to continue teaching in order to support the family enlarged by the arrival of the fourth child, although her husband, a doctor, has three regular jobs during the week. The juggling done by this couple, however, has some compensations, such as the ability to continue to employ a daily maid and a house cleaner who comes three times a week.

The family works hard, furthermore, in order to keep the children in private school, although it is paying monthly fees for three of the four children of school age in medium-price schools. Also, this family trades in its car every 4 years instead of annually now, and has cut the twice-yearly trips to the north to visit relatives to a single trip every 2 years.

With an average income of 30 minimum wages, this family began to feel the recession more directly this year, when instead of saving about 30 percent of the monthly income, it had to draw on savings account funds, in addition to reducing recreational expenditures from 10 to 5 percent of the budget. A priority item for the family is food, in which there has been no cut, except for restaurant meals, which have been cut to once a month. Even after rationalizing expenditures and with the four jobs in the family, Gabriela believes that it will be necessary to reduce expenditures somewhat more. "If we had only one job, we would be in the lower class today, probably living on the outskirts of the city with a drastic change in our standard of living."

Marilene Cazula Constantino, a housewife whose husband is an engineer, has three children. With a family income of about 20 minimum wages, she has had to keep a rigid check on the household budget, particularly this year, and has come to the conclusion that the general atmosphere is one of insecurity and pessimism.

The family income is not low, but the lack of confidence in the economy is such that we must be cautious. You have to have some reserve for any extra expenditure or occurrence, because everyone is short of money. One cannot

even think of turning to relatives or friends, because everyone is suffering from the crisis."

Marilene now uses the only family vehicle much less, in order to save on gasoline. She goes to the supermarket to shop on foot and has chosen a shop closer to her home. Weekend trips to visit family members in a nearby city have been reduced to once a month. Thereby, the family has reduced its gasoline consumption from two tanks to one.

Medical costs have been reduced by joining a health plan, having the children vaccinated at public instead of private health centers, and the use of the free samples they are sometimes given, instead of medicines purchased at the pharmacy. The three children are still in private school, a priority item in Marilene's budget, but two of them have been given scholarships which reduce the cost by 30 percent. Her husband believes that it is not necessary to be so concerned about the household economy, but Marilene reads the newspapers, sees the news on television and thinks it is better not to trust too much in the future.

#### Middle Class Cost-of-Living Index (ICVM)

| Item                  | Percentage of Household Budget | Increase from Oct '82 to Oct '83 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Food                  | 29.91                          | 238.5                            |
| Housing               | 20.52                          | 121.5                            |
| Personal Expenditures | 18.13                          | 134.2                            |
| Transportation        | 10.13                          | 141.6                            |
| Clothing              | 8.66                           | 110.7                            |
| Health                | 7.22                           | 157.5                            |
| Education             | 5.43                           | 120.5                            |
| General               |                                | 157.11                           |

#### Percentage of Wage Adjustments and Losses in Terms of the INPC

1982 (Law No 6886 in effect)

| 10 SM              | 20 SM              | 30 SM              |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1.03 (of the INPC) | 0.84 (of the INPC) | 0.56 (of the INPC) |
| +3%                | -16%               | -44%               |

1983 (Various decree laws up to October)

| 10 SM               | 20 SM               | 30 SM               |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 0.883 (of the INPC) | 0.776 (of the INPC) | 0.612 (of the INPC) |
| -11.7%              | -22.4%              | -38.8%              |

Note: SM = minimum wages.

## NETTO DENIES NEW MAXIDEVALUATION; DURATEX OFFICIAL COMMENTS

## Minister's Statement

Sao Paulo: O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO In Portuguese 1 Dec 83 p. 28

[Text] Brazil--Minister of Planning Delfim Netto has vehemently denied that the government is planning a new maxidevaluation of the cruzeiro. He stated that there are no plans to alter the exchange policy, which will be maintained at the level of inflation and monetary adjustment. Delfim Netto gave assurance that there is a broad margin making adequate remuneration of exporters possible, and he reiterated that there is no intention to approve another maxidevaluation.

Despite the categorical denial by the minister of planning of any plans for another major devaluation, there is the expectation in business circles that the cruzeiro will be devalued early next year by between 15 and 20 percent to compensate for the increase in the value of the dollar as compared to the strong currencies in Europe and the yen, and to guarantee the competitive capacity of Brazilian exports on the European market.

## Increase in Dollar Value

It is exporters who are most convinced that there will be another maxidevaluation. They note that between January and November, the dollar increased in value by 15.18 percent in relation to the mark, 11.48 percent in comparison to the lira, 10.18 percent in relation to the Swiss franc, 23.26 percent in relation to the French franc, and 2.6 percent in relation to the yen.

At the same time, the government has announced yet another export subsidy to be withdrawn and a limitation on the financing of 1984 activity, as a way of limiting the public sector deficit to the losses negotiated with the International Monetary Fund. In the opinion of exporters, these provisions are inconsistent with the government intention to obtain a trade surplus of \$9 billion through exports totaling \$25 billion and imports totaling \$16 billion.

However the government argues that the foreign exchange adjustment totaled 269.36 percent for the year by the end of November and 285.05 percent for the 12-month period, while the rate of inflation during that same period reached 188.100 percent and 206.8 percent, respectively, with a tremendous differential in favor of foreign exchange, precisely that margin to which the minister of planning is referring, which it is claimed guarantees the export sector adequate profitability.

There has been concern in the FFEIAN (Planning Secretariat) about the reports suggesting a further devaluation, because the government fears a reduction in the export rate, with exportable inflation, sales while awaiting a more favorable exchange rate. Such indecision could affect the price system in a way disadvantageous to exporters, resulting in a decline in international prices, instead of encouraging them.

#### Laerte Setubal's Prediction

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 29 Nov 83 p 14

[Text] São Paulo—If the present exchange policy, which reduced cruzeiro devaluations in relation to the dollar as of the beginning of this month, is maintained, the government will be forced to effect a devaluation in the medium range of 15 percent at the beginning of the second half of next year. This prediction was made by the vice president of the Duratex, Laerte Setubal Filho, who stressed that only thus "will it be possible to regain the competitive capacity of Brazilian manufactured products abroad."

In a meeting at the American Chamber of Commerce for Brazil, Setubal said that "a clear intention to correct the foreign exchange policy" with a view to strengthening the cruzeiro and thus better solving the problem of payment of the domestic debt can be noted among the economic authorities. The "correction," he said, began on the 9th of this month, with a devaluation of only 1.671 percent, as compared to 2.445 percent for the preceding one (on 31 October). Until that time, the rates this year had almost always exceeded 2 percent, he noted.

Laerte Setubal, who also heads the Brazilian section of the Brazil-United States Business Committee, voiced his concern about the elimination of the credit premium on exports (planned for January of 1985), and he proposed that the 11 percent gain be offset by "more realistic" exchange devaluations.

The development of the minidevaluations of the cruzeiro since 13 October has been as follows:

| Date   | Purchase<br>(in cruzeiros) | Sale | Percentage change in purchase<br>rate from preceding value |
|--------|----------------------------|------|--|
| 13 Oct | 766                        | 780  | 2.918  |
| 20 Oct | 792                        | 803  | 2.964  |
| 26 Oct | 818                        | 822  | 2.378  |
| 11 Oct | 838                        | 842  | 2.445  |
| 9 Nov  | 852                        | 856  | 1.671  |
| 16 Nov | 865                        | 869  | 1.526  |
| 21 Nov | 879                        | 883  | 1.618  |
| 23 Nov | 896                        | 900  | 1.925  |

Source: FFEIAN.

## PRC INTEREST IN JOINT VENTURES, TECHNOLOGY SHARING DISCUSSED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Dec 83 p 34

[Text] The commercial attache at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Zhang Duo, issued an invitation yesterday during the closing session of the Seminar on Economic and Trade Relations Between Brazil and China sponsored by the Foreign Trade Studies Center Foundation (FUNCEX) in Sao Paulo to Brazilian project contractors and engineering enterprises to participate with enterprises in his country in the building of roads, ports, dams and industrial plants in the developing nations, mainly in Africa and Asia, where China is carrying out projects budgeted at \$1.8 billion.

Duo also proposed joint venture undertakings exclusively oriented toward exporting manufactured goods to third countries. In addition to this, the Chinese trade attache announced that the government of his country is also making a very great effort in the energy and transportation sectors, through the construction of a number of hydroelectric plants, prospecting for oil in the China Sea (offshore) and the building of large railroad projects. All of the work in these two sectors, according to Duo, is open to participation by Brazilian enterprises.

According to its trade attache, China is very interested in the Brazilian hydroelectric plant construction technology. Official invitations to visit China have already been issued to Minister of Mines and Energy Cesar Cals and the president of Itaipu Binational, Gen Costa Cavalcanti, to discuss this matter.

Duo also confirmed that his country is prepared to provide Brazil with the technology for the building of mini-hydroelectric plants free of charge. In this connection, FLETROBRAS [Brazilian Electric Power Companies, Inc] is preparing a program on the national level to be launched early in 1984. The offer of this technology was made by the Chinese ambassador toward the middle of this year.

The building of mini-hydroelectric plants is very common in China, mainly in rural communities far from the electrical energy distribution networks.

## SAO PAULO SECURITY CONCERNS OUTNUMBER THOSE IN RIO DE JANEIRO

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Dec 83 p 13

[Text] The police car stopped in front of a theater in the city. One of the two policemen got out of the vehicle and held out, cupped in his hands, various pieces of jewelry--wrist and pocket watches, necklaces...and he asked whose they were. "Are they yours? Yours, madam?" The answer was "no." A woman, glancing at her wristwatch in the policeman's hands, responded in the negative. She was afraid of claiming her jewelry, because the thief who had stolen it a short time earlier was crowded into the caged back of the vehicle and was watching her.

Later a friend asked her why she did not ask for her watch back. The trembling woman explained: "In a little while the thief will be back here again."

"That's the truth," a candy peddler, used to the thieves in the area, agreed.

The fear of the population is increasing, and the people of Sao Paulo ended the year more worried about city safety than were the people of Rio, the former champions in this regard. This was what Sao Paulo citizens revealed in a survey taken by the Gallup Public Opinion Poll last month. For the first time since 1975, they indicated a higher level of concern about city safety than did Rio: 70 percent as compared to 30 percent.

[Question] Do you believe that crimes and assaults are currently increasing, decreasing, or continuing at the same rate as 5 years ago?

The people of Sao Paulo questioned by Gallup answered as follows: increasing (96 percent), decreasing (1 percent), remaining the same (2 percent) and didn't know (1 percent). These answers were given by Rio citizens as follows: 82 percent, 6 percent, 11 percent and 1 percent, respectively. Thus three out of four persons in Rio believe that assaults and crime are on the rise.

"This is a stickup!"

Many citizens of Sao Paulo have already been taken by surprise by this statement, and have had the bitter experience of this undesirable confrontation. At least according to Gallup, this has happened to four out of 10 persons. But others have already reported such episodes more than once, again on the basis of the Gallup survey.

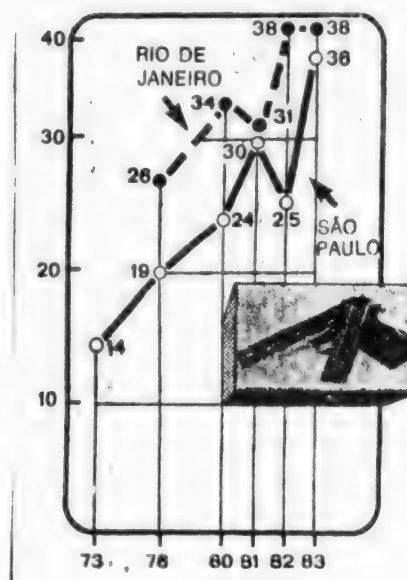
[Question] Have you personally been robbed? How many times?

The number of Sao Paulo citizens who have been robbed comes to 36 percent, while the figure for citizens of Rio is 20 percent. Both in Sao Paulo and in Rio, 9 percent have been robbed twice, and 7 percent in Sao Paulo and 9 percent in Rio have been robbed three times or more. Of the Sao Paulo citizens questioned, 64 percent have never been robbed, while the figure for Rio was 62 percent.

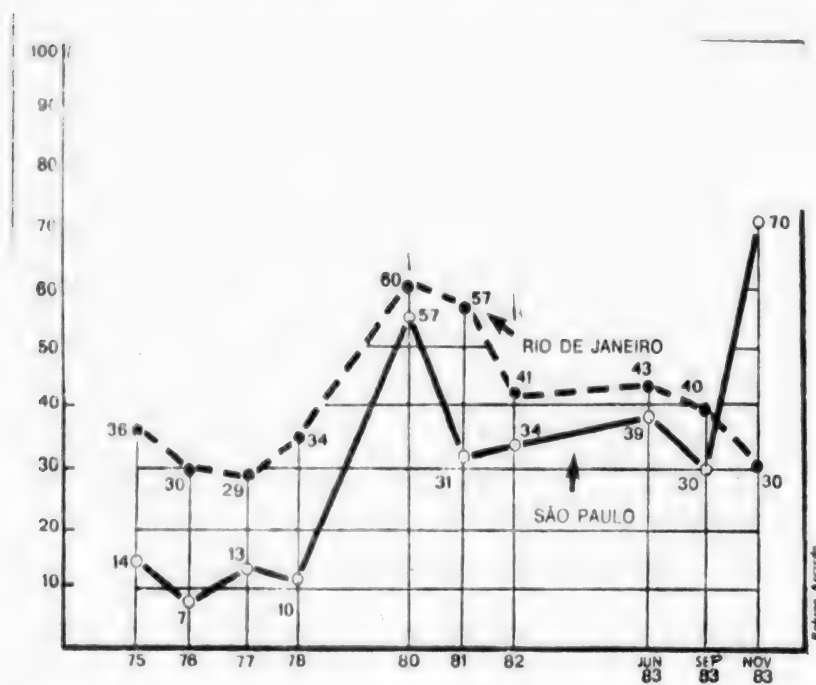
In Rio, on the basis of these figures, there have always been more robbery victims than in Sao Paulo. But the increase in assaults on Sao Paulo citizens was rather sharp in 1983.

When attacked, however, not all victims go to the police to press charges. In any case, the number of such occurrences reported has increased by 4 percent in Sao Paulo and by 11 percent in Rio in the past 3 years.

#### Persons Reporting Being Robbed Once



# Persons Reporting Safety as the Leading City Problem



5157

CS0: 3342/33



## BRIEFS

NUCLEAR SUBMARINE USE DEFENDED--Adm Luiz Leal Ferreira, commander of the First Naval District, whose jurisdiction covers the entire state of Sao Paulo, yesterday defended Brazil's preparations for operating a nuclear submarine. "Any naval officer would like for the navy to have a nuclear submarine, because it is a warship that meets a number of important requirements for submarine warfare." He stressed that this in no way indicates a trend toward the adoption of nuclear weapons because "a nuclear submarine is one whose propulsion is based on nuclear technology, making it a very modern naval resource." The admiral said that "a nuclear submarine is desirable because of the modernization it would represent in providing suitable conditions for the Brazilian fleet, but this is not a project to be carried out in the short term." Some admirals have predicted that Brazil may have at least one nuclear submarine by the end of the century. The technology involved in a nuclear submarine's reactor is more complex than that for the reactors used in electric power plants. After saying that it would make no sense for Brazil to enter an arms race "because we have other problems in the areas of development and security, and Brazil's relations with its neighboring countries are the best possible," the admiral said that "the important thing is to keep the Armed Forces appropriately equipped." [Excerpt] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Dec 83 p 7] 11798

MISSILE TECHNOLOGY TALKS--Brasilia--Minister of Navy Maximiano da Fonseca said yesterday that no decision has been reached concerning the purchase of foreign technology for producing the navy missile. According to the minister, purchasing the technology for Italy's Otomat missile is the most feasible plan at the moment. Maximiano said, however, that the navy is also looking into the possibility of talks with France (to purchase Exocet technology) and with Israel (to purchase the technology for the Gabriel missile). [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 26 Nov 83 p 4] 11798

PRESTES ON DIRECT ELECTIONS--Recife--Communist leader Luiz Carlos Prestes said yesterday that the meeting by opposition governors in Sao Paulo last weekend to kick off the national "Brazil Speaks" campaign--aimed at restoring direct elections for president of the republic--was an act of political naiveness. He added: "It is difficult to believe that politicians such as Franco Montoro, Tancredo Neves, and Ulysses Guimaraes are naive enough to believe that direct elections alone are going to solve all of Brazil's economic, political, and social problems. I see only one objective in all this: to deceive the people

and distract them from the struggle on behalf of their immediate interests, which are hunger, poverty, and the lack of work. That is what the people are experiencing." According to Luiz Carlos Prestes, Brazil's opposition parties, including the CP, are committed to the struggle for direct elections along with President Figueiredo and are favorable to the idea of consensus. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 29 Nov 83 p 4] 11798

CSO: 3342/32

ELECTION RESULT: VIP, UNITED PARTY MISS COUNCIL MAJORITY

Balance of Power with Independent

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 12 Nov 83 p 1

[Text] Turn out of voters was light during the morning hours at the polling stations on yesterday's Election Day (11th November) for Candidates seeking election to the Tenth Legislative Council. But as the time of the day progressed, the voting become heavy in all six districts, respectively, where candidates were on the ballot. The polls were opened at 7:00 a.m. and closed at 6:00 p.m. but only after all voters present had the opportunity of casting their ballots. The polling procedures operated ontoward incident reported.

Counting of the ballots showed the following results, which is unofficial until confirmed by the Supervisor of Elections: [as published]

First District

H. Lavity Stoutt (V. I. Party) - Elected; Basil Blake (United Party) - Defeated;

Second District

Conrad Maduro (United Party) - Elected; Prince Stoutt (V. I. Party) - Defeated.

Third District

Earl Frazer (United Party) - Elected; Oliver Cills (V. I. Party) - Defeated.

Fourth District

Walwryn Brewley (United Party) - Elected; Alban U. Anthony (V. I. Party) - Defeated.

Fifth District

Cyril B. Romney (Independent) - Elected; Eileen Parsons (Independent) - Defeated; Patsy Lake (V. I. Party) - Defeated; Harold Vanterpool (United Party) - Defeated.

## Sixth District

Omar Hodge (V. I. Party) - Elected; Charles Mercer (United Party) - Defeated.

## Unopposed Candidates Already Declared Elected

Terrence Lettsome (V. I. Party) - Seventh District; Willard Wheatley (United Party) - Eighth District; Ralph T. O'Neal (V. I. Party) - Ninth District.

In summarising it is noted that the V. I. Party has succeeded in electing only four candidates, short of one for a majority; and the United Party has done the same, also being short of one for a majority. Therefore, it appears that the Independent elected candidate, Mr. Cyril Romney holds the key in forming the new Government, as neither of the two Parties has the majority. To say the least, this is an interesting situation.

## Proposal for Reform

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 12 Nov 83 p 15

[Editorial]

[Text]

The decision of the voters of the British Virgin Islands has been made in the respective six electoral districts. Three candidates were unopposed and were already proclaimed elected to the Tenth Legislative Council - namely Mr. Terrence Lettsome (Seventh District), Mr. Willard Wheatley (Eighth District) and Mr. Ralph O'Neal (Ninth District).

It may have been that these unopposed candidates may have preferred to be in the election race to prove their ability of overcoming whatever opposition there might have been, but the electoral law was applicable in cases of "no opposition" at nomination time.

However it is our opinion that the electoral law, bearing on such matters, should be amended, so that any unopposed candidate should run on a "Yes" and "No" voteballot with a majority of "Yes" votes determining the election of the candidate. There are a number of angles from which this matter ought to be studied, both pro and con. As we see it, it deserves serious thought for the future.

The candidates in the remaining six districts gave it their all, and the election on the whole was one of the most hard-fought and interesting political experiences witnessed in these islands.

As of this writing we have heard of no dishonest action, or attempted action to corrupt the democratic procedure at the voting precincts, as is common in many countries. We trust that there will be no cause for such complaint and we hope that the New Government, which will be shortly formed, will see to it that democracy prevails and is applicable to all the people.

CSO: 3298/239

## BRIEFS

AIRPORT TERMINAL EXTENSION--The official opening of the extension of the terminal building at Beef Island airport was commemorated in a small ceremony on Monday 7th November. The improvement works were financed by a grant from UK Development aid in the amount of \$107,800 which was administered by the British Development Division in the Caribbean. The project included the following works: An extra 1,470 square feet of enclosed space for arriving and departing passengers; a 256 sq ft bonded baggage store; canopies above the baggage handling areas and by the installation of metal detectors and seating. The above items were identified as the areas which were in need of urgent improvement. It is unfortunate that the work on this project was not completed during the time originally estimated and the inconvenience caused to all users of the airport is regretted, an official press release said. [Text] [Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 12 Nov 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/239

## M-19 COMMANDO ARRESTED IN YUMBO MUNICIPALITY

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 7 Dec 83 pp 1-A, 2-A

[Article by Felio Augusto Plazas]

[Text] Cali, 6 Dec--Fourteen hooded members of an M-19 commando which occupied the cathedral of the municipality of Yumbo have been evicted and arrested by the police.

The chief of the Metropolitan Police, Colonel Gustavo Gonzalez Puerto, reported that the subversives were in possession of three revolvers, ammunition, explosives, subversive propaganda, hoods and flags with the M-19 insignia.

The operation was carried out today, Tuesday, at 5 in the morning, after the group occupied the Church of Good Counsel in Yumbo's main square, and through loudspeakers and megaphones incited the citizens to initiate a civic strike.

The guerrillas said that their action was in response to their solidarity with the people to force the government to solve local problems, to reject rate increases and to demand better public services.

Other groups of people simultaneously tried to erect barricades to block the principal routes of access into the municipality, but they too were dispersed by the police.

The mayor of Yumbo, Alejandro Grum, said at noon today that the problem of public order was under control, but pointed out that activities, both public and private, had not taken place as usual.

Meanwhile, persons who identified themselves simply as "citizens of Yumbo," called the Cali radio stations to read a communique from the "committee for the first municipal strike of Yumbo," proclaiming that this movement had reportedly begun at 5 in the morning.

The same persons denounced attacks by the police against citizens who were staging activities characteristic of a movement which they said was civic in nature.

#### Identified Persons

The F-2 police command has released the identities of the 14 hooded M-19 members arrested during the evacuation of the Yumbo cathedral: Juan Carlos Echeverry Suarez, 17 years old, Guillermo Antonio Chiene (20), Hector Marino Salcedo Santamaria (17), Luis Omar Mora (21), Renzo Medina Mejia (17), Luis Alberto Giron Bermudez (18), Jose Octavio Ramirez Arboleda (16), Jaime Vallejo Benitez (18), Evelio Anez (27), Ruperto Parra Gutierrez (21), Tulio Enrique Valencia Montenegro (21), Sandra Milena Guterrez Garcia (18), Janeth Cardozo Arellano (18) and Liliana Lozano Parra, 18 years old.

It was also reported that one person suffered a bullet wound resulting from the confrontation which developed between a group of activists and the police.

Mayor Alejandro Grum indicated that the municipality has been militarized.

CSO: 3348/163

## BRIEFS

LEFTISTS FORM UNITED FRONT--The leftist political groups have signed an accord by which they have established a United Front to launch their own lists and to defend a minimal platform of social, economic and political demands in the midterm elections. The accord is binding for the Communist Party of Colombia; for the Colombian Workers' Party, headed by Abel Rodriguez and Otto Yanez; for the Socialist Revolutionary Party, headed by Socorro Ramirez and Ricardo Sanchez and other groups which desire to join the Democratic Front. The new political block will submit the following lists of Candidates for the Council of Bogota: Carlos Romero, Mario Upegui, Abel Rodriguez, Ricardo Sanchez and Socorro Ramirez. [Text] [Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 16 Dec 83 p 5-A]

SOVIET, ROMANIAN TROLLEYS--Twenty of the 125 Soviet-built trolleys which Bogota has purchased from the USSR are expected to arrive this weekend, according to information provided by the director of the District Enterprise for Urban Transportation [EDTU], Gerardo Olave Cortes. Yesterday they started to be unloaded from the ships which arrived in Santa Marta and began to be loaded onto the National Railway cars which will transport them to Bogota. As reported earlier, the first 30 Soviet trolleybuses, which are presently being readied, arrived in November. The remaining 75 vehicles, which are the last of the 125 negotiated with the USSR, will be shipped to Colombia in March, in accordance with the request to this effect made by the EDTU director to that country's charge d'affaires. In the enterprise workshops, in addition to the 30 Soviet trolleybuses, 90 of the 115 purchased from Romania are also being readied. Servicing the La Espana-San Dristobal route there are another 35 Romanian trolleys. "With 32 old trolleybuses," added the director, "the corporation is providing service from the 12 de Octubre district to San Carlos. In February, some Romanian trolleys will be put into operation to augment service to these routes. [Text] [Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 15 Dec 83 p 1]

CSO: 3348/161



## DOCUMENTARY ON GRENADA DIRECTED AT U.S. PUBLIC OPINION

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 4 Dec 83 p 6

[Interview with Rigoberto Lopez by film critic Carlos Galiano; date, place not given]

[Text]

● A NEW documentary from the Cuban Institute of Cinema Arts (ICAIC) is now being shown in major theaters in Cuba. It is a revealing testimony about the pretexts brandished by the Reagan administration which attempt to justify the criminal attack on Grenada. *Grenada, el despegue de un sueño* (Grenada, the Takeoff of a Dream) forcefully exposes the hypocrisy of the U.S. imperialist propaganda campaign about the alleged "Soviet-Cuban penetration" of the tiny Caribbean island. It centers on the airport at Point Saline which was being built with the help of Cuban construction workers and the material, human and technical aid of other countries. The airport represented the realization of a long-held dream of the Grenadian people.

Beyond its cinematographic value, the foremost merit of this 30-minute film is the intense conviction with which it puts forward an irrefutable truth that only the U.S. government's fascist arrogance and demagoguery could try to hide or twist.

In an interview for *Granma*, the director of Grenada, the Takeoff of a Dream, Rigoberto López, explained that the documentary was filmed during June and July of the present year by a team made up of cameraman Luis García, soundman Carlos Fernández and cameraman's assistant Mario Ballester. "At that time," Rigoberto said, "the main conflict concerning Grenadian reality was the hostile climate unleashed by U.S. imperialism against that country and the destabilization campaign which its mass media were carrying out against the Grenadian Revolution and its top leader, Maurice Bishop. The building of the new airport and the presence there of Cuban construction workers was at the center of that offensive."

This situation was touched off by Reagan's televised appearance last March when he touted the worn-out argument that the construction project constituted a threat to U.S. national

security. Rigoberto saw a video of this appearance in Grenada and it gave him the idea that the documentary should respond to the question posed by Reagan: Who is the airport intended for? "We set out to make a documentary that would be directed at international public opinion, particularly U.S. public opinion, because don't forget that more than 70 percent of Caribbean tourism comes from the United States. We didn't try to do anything more than show the objective truth about the airport; we hoped that the reality and the statements by U.S. tourists themselves would expose the falseness of Reagan's statements. As the viewers will see, the interviews with the U.S. tourists follow a progression beginning with a woman who has just arrived in Grenada up until some who have been there several days. Also, we included statements by U.S. students from the University of Saint George's. None gives any indication of being afraid for themselves or their country. We also sought testimonies from different sectors of Grenadian society, private enterprise, the Church and the poorest strata of the population. Without exception, everyone had placed their hopes on the construction of the new airport."

With an all-encompassing journalistic approach, *Grenada, the Takeoff of a Dream* accumulates evidence that destroys the numerous lies fabricated by Reagan and his accomplices. The idea of the airport, as the statement of a Grenadian engineer demonstrates, was not the product of "Soviet-Cuban scheming" as the U.S. president shamelessly charged; but rather a project that had been planned for a long time to meet some of the country's urgent communication and economic needs. The unbiased statements made by a Finnish technician and a British one contradict the military character that the U.S. government alleged. The White House's "concern" about the length of the runway is refuted by Grenadian workers who don't see what distinguishes this airport from others, including even larger ones located on the neighboring islands of Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.

At the time of the Yankee invasion of Grenada the documentary was practically finished. Obviously the new situation demanded that the script be reworked. "The end of the documentary was going to be a beautiful and symbolic scene which we had accidentally filmed. In it three little girls, whom we see talking with Bishop earlier in the film, are running along the runway, an image that was going to be accompanied by the sound of airplanes taking off. But given the events we decided to end the film with the dramatic reality of Grenada today. What was going to be a song to the takeoff of a dream thus became a denunciation of the murder of that very dream."

Despite the turn of events, the testimonial value of the film remained intact. Rigoberto described to us how the urgency to finish the film fired everyone involved in this stage of filmmaking. Working night and day, the finishing stages, ranging from the editing done by Roberto

Bravo to the developing of copies in ICAIC's color lab, demanded extraordinary effort. "It's in situations like this that one understands most categorically the meaning of cinema as a weapon." In addition to its prompt showing in the country, the documentary is being circulated internationally, adding yet another voice to the wave of protest that the world has raised in reaction to the invasion of Grenada.

Along with its clarifying objective, Grenada, the Takeoff of a Dream pays tribute to a revolution and a sister people who have been its protagonist. It is, Rigoberto told us, the vision of a Cuban filmmaker who came to love that country and wanted to show in his film "the Grenadian whom I knew, the typical hospitable Caribbean, smiling, friendly, representative of the vitality and beauty of a people — an image completely alien to that of a captive country which imperialist propaganda has tried to create."

CSO: 3200/6

## PAPER SEES NEW HARMONY STEMMING FROM GRENADA DEVELOPMENTS

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 26 Nov 83 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text] The news of recent weeks which reflects growing positivity throughout the nation has inspired us even further to intensify our commitment to national unity.

In our view a number of developments, a few of which will be highlighted herein indicate that the business of bringing Dominica's collective consciousness into perfect balance, is progressing well. We understand this to be a direct consequence of growing wisdom, happiness and creativity at all levels and in all areas of our society.

We believe that the voices of Eugenia Charles, Frank Baron and Jenner Armour as they have been heard at international conferences in recent times could not be as strong...as genuinely people-oriented, in the absence of rising national harmony.

We cannot therefore commend these individuals for their outstanding roles in pursuing a proper global understanding of Dominica's participation in the Grenada intervention without giving due recognition to the contribution of the people. They have been resolute behind their leaders on a controversial issue widely condemned by world leaders.

These same people came out in large numbers to make independence celebrations this year (including the national day of community service) a heart-warming and encouraging success.

They too through their united interest have been giving new life to available development programmes in the fields of health and education.

When we took the issue of education to the streets some time ago we found respondents representing a cross section of economic, ethnic and educational components of the population united on the question of the primary purpose of education. Most saw it as the enrichment of the quality of life.

Positive trends continue in other areas.

Debate in parliament is becoming extremely coherent and productive. One cannot help but take note of the level of accord characterizing the deliberations that accompany the parliamentary decision-making process. Whereas, the leaders should be complimented we view this largely as a function of growing order in national consciousness.

Also thrusts in agriculture specifically in the areas of husbandry and marketing have been making significant impact. Indications are, that farmers are beginning to enjoy more freedom to decide how to grow and sell their crops. We are of the opinion that this will cause markets to come alive with vigorous activity.

We want to make mention too of the increase in activities of various civic organizations, the continuing attempts to establish a closer relationship between government and the private sector and the recent efforts to set up a Manufacturers Association.

These and others represent some lively facets of a growing national harmony.

CSO: 3298/240

## MANUFACTURERS ACT TO POOL RESOURCES, ADDRESS PROBLEMS

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 26 Nov 83 p 16

[Text]

A FIVE member delegation of local manufacturers has been appointed to hold discussions with the Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce concerning the formation of a manufacturing group.

The committee was appointed at a meeting of fifteen representatives of the garment, furniture, woodwork, agro-processing and building supplies manufacturing concerns held last week. The meeting was also attended by observers from the DAIC and the IDC.

The delegation headed by Ninian Marie of Harris Paints comprises of Tony Inglis of E.E. Mitchel, Sheridan Jno. Baptiste of P.W. Bellot and Company, Paris Williams of P.H. Williams and Company and John Riviere of Home Industries Limited.

Chairman of the meeting, Ninian Marie of Harris Paints said, that most manufacturers faced special problems from time to time and it was necessary for them to organise themselves to deal more effectively with their common problems.

Mr. Marie emphasized that in trying to form a manufacturer's group the purpose was not to compete or to confront any other organisation but there was a need for manufacturers to pool their resources in making maximum use of the services offered by Government as well as regional and international development agencies.

According to reports from the meeting the participants observed that there had previously been a manufacturers organisation which was merged with the chamber of commerce to form the DAIC. They also felt that the interest of manufacturers could just as effectively be served if the manufacturers became more active within the DAIC itself.

The meeting fully explored the options of forming a new organisation or seeking to revitalize the DAIC through effective participation of the manufacturers in it.

It was also noted that most of the manufacturers were already members of the DAIC.

The five-man committee is expected to meet with the Executive of the DAIC for early discussion on the options presented by the manufacturers.

## BRIEFS

BANANA PAYMENTS--Contract negotiations between representatives of the Windward Islands Banana Growers Association and Geest Industries have resulted in new arrangements for the payment of bananas to producers. That's what Edison James, General Manager of The Dominica Banana Growers Association (DBGA) said recently. Speaking on a DBGA radio programme (Banana Quarter) Mr. James said this new arrangement will bring increased benefits to banana growers in the Windward islands. James said banana producers will now be paid the selling price per ton of banana, less expenses, rather than the present Green Market (GMP) Price which is arrived at after consideration of market conditions. "The new arrangement will be the green wholesale price and we think that in this way it will be more equitable than the old arrangements," James said. He explained that under the new arrangement, the price per ton of bananas will be what the marketers, Geest Industry, sells to major wholesalers in the United Kingdom less Geest's own ripening and handling charges. The GMP was based on speculation as to the amount the fruit will fetch even before it arrives on the U.K. market. "We were very concerned in the past in the way the GMP was arrived at and we think this more objective method of arriving at the green wholesale price will rebound to our benefit", the DBGA General Manager said. [By Earlsworth Carter] [Excerpt] [Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 26 Nov 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/240

## PAPER BLASTS LABOR SPOKESMAN FOR 'LIES' ABOUT TAX ACT

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 19 Nov 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] One of the biggest and most barefaced lies ever perpetrated in this country was scrawled all over THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN, mouth-piece of the bewildered Labour Party, in Wednesday's edition this week. This horrible lie, that Government's recently-passed Stamp Tax Act 1983, puts up all imports, appears in the Banner Headline itself and in a most disjointed Editorial, which indulges in a "historical review" as a cover for propagating this very awful, very hair-raising, lie.

The Stamp Tax Act, (which the Opposition mouth-piece quoted liberally from--so they had it!) states in Section 6 (1): "The goods specified in the Second Schedule to the Consumption Tax Act 1974 shall be exempt from tax under this Act." Section 6 (2) goes on to further rivet the point by adding: "The Minister may by Order made under this section vary the list of goods exempted from tax under this Act."

The Consumption Tax Act 1974 was introduced into the House of Assembly of this State while Lee Moore was Attorney-General--so it is not something they do not know about.

Those liars called Labour do not wish the public to know that a whole pile of goods are exempt from the tax, and they are deliberately lying to the people of this country on this issue.

The following are only some of the goods referred to as exempt from tax in the Second Schedule to the Consumption Tax Act 1974:--Bread, Fish, Meat, Chicken, Rice, Eggs, Animal and Poultry Feed, Kerosene and Clothing Patterns. The list then refers to another list of goods under the Customs Tariff Act 1972 (when Lee Moore was Attorney-General) which are also exempt from the tax. That other list includes Sacrament Wine, Building Materials for Churches, Hearing Aids, Educational Materials, Vaccines, "Talking Books" for the Blind, Artificial Limbs, Trophies for Cricket and Football Clubs, Medicines, Tools of Trade, Wheel Chairs, and Clothing for Divine Worship. Over seventy (70) different Heads of imports are exempt from the tax--and THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN declares in its most prominent position

"Gov't Puts Up Price of All Imports". Only sick and unhinged minds, only pathological and deranged liars, can stoop so low.

But that is not all. The lying Labour Misleaders alleged the cost of living will go up as a result of the Stamp Tax, levied at 2%. The truth is that the Stamp Tax Act is passed in conjunction with new regulations which abolish the 2% Foreign Currency Tax on U.S. money sent abroad for any reason. So now with the 2% Foreign Currency Tax gone, and those 70 Heads of imports remaining duty-free, it is obvious, even to the Labour Liars, that it will be 2% cheaper to import those 70 sets of essential items. So the cost of living should in fact go down.

They are the ones who wrote up that list of exempt goods. So they well know about it. The Stamp Tax Act specifically states that the items on that list are exempt from the tax. How on earth, therefore, can all imports be involved, according to their Editorial?

Then they want people to say that they are a "responsible" Opposition!!

CSO: 3298/241



## BRIEFS

IDEAL REFINERY CONDITIONS--Preliminary tests for the siting of marine facilities for the planned 10,000-barrel-a-day Oil Refinery in St. Kitts, were this week undertaken in the waters off Con Phipps Estate. Mr. Marvin Douglas, Project Coordinator who flew in from Puerto Rico for this exercise, told THE DEMOCRAT that water depth tests were carried out with the use of sophisticated radar-assisted, digital electronic depth-finding equipment on board a vessel belonging to Statia Terminals N.V. of neighbouring St. Eustatius. Mr. Douglas said that according to local navigation charts, the depth in the proposed area runs from 6 fathoms to 53 fathoms (1 fathom = 6 feet), and the tested depth from 0.15 miles off shore is more than 70 feet--which, Mr. Douglas added, is ideal. [Text] [Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 19 Nov 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/241

## PAPER CRITICIZES GOVERNMENT INEFFICIENCY ON VARIETY OF FRONTS

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 25 Nov 83 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text] The time is over-due for Vincentians to sit down, take a keen look at their country and decide what if anything can be done to check what has developed into a rapid slide into chaos.

Broadly speaking corruption is rife at all levels of the society. Crime is on the increase from praedia larcency to breaking and entering. [as published] Violence prevails and rears its ugly head even among the personnel of the security forces.

The infra-structure and services relevant to the country's economic development are deteriorating rapidly. Electricity supplies seem to be grinding to a halt. Many roads are full of dangerous pot holes and the patching methods used are inadequate.

Perhaps the biggest disaster of the moment is the disruption in electricity supplies. Since government took over forty-nine per cent of the share holding the decrease in efficiency of the service has become catastrophic. We are not aware if there is any truth, in the rumour that the previous owner of Vinlec (St. Vincent Electricity Supplies Ltd the Commonwealth Development Corporation has not been compensated financially by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Government, and so refuses to put any money into the enterprise for replacement of equipment. [as published] What we do know is that electricity consumers have no redress regarding loss of power for long hours almost daily. Industry is discommoded, with employers facing losses from break-downs in machinery and under-production; and employees having to be satisfied with layoffs and consequent loss of income. Householders have to cope with food spoilage, broken equipment and disruption of domestic routine. Entertainment organisations cannot operate. Students cannot study.

And what is the government of the country doing in it all? If anything the people are not told.

The St. Vincent Labour Party government must be the most heartless and insensitive government that a nation with democratic rights has over

inflicted on itself. [as published] Have the people had any words of sympathy regarding their plight under Vinlec? The recent post office scandal has resulted in the arrest of a person.

An insurance company that has recently folded is alleged to be unable to pay off its policy holders because its assets have been frozen by government. A previous enlightened authority had made certain dutyfree regulations with the object of facilitating the flow of information to the people of the country. The change of technology has been used as an opportunity to squeeze newspapers to death with duties, stamp duties, consumer taxes and trade taxes.

Recently published statistics show that St. Vincent and the Grenadines has the GNP lowest GNP per Head in the Commonwealth Caribbean. [as published] Yet the people struggle under a direct taxation load that is rapidly turning honest people who have always paid their bills meticulously into evaders of responsibility.

Somewhere, somehow these frightening conditions must be brought to an end. They are creating a situation of desperate action. Prime Minister Cato said recently in the House during the debate on Grenada that any threat to the peace and security of St. Vincent and the Grenadines would be met by very positive action before it reached the stage in which Grenadians found themselves.

Mr Cato would be well advised to understand that the best way to stop violence is to create a situation where--far from being the only hope for change where change is a must--violence is eschewed as a threat to something of social and economic value that a nation possesses. If Eric Gairy had not taken on his role of tyranny there would in all probability have been no revolution to establish Maurice Bishop and a coup to remove him.

Vincentians must think deeply on these things and themselves under take action to stem democratically the present tide of hopelessness and frustration.

CSO: 3298/241

## BACKGROUND ON EXPULSION OF CUBAN DIPLOMATS

Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 6 Dec 83 p 4

(Article by Peter Schumacher: "Expulsion was possible reaction to relations with RVP. PARAMARIBO KEEPS SILENT ABOUT CUBANS.")

[Text] Just exactly what sort of uncontrollable things the dozens of Cubans who were expelled from Surinam by army commander Desi Bouterse did, has never been disclosed here in Paramaribo. But there are indications that Bouterse objected to the relations between the Cubans and the Revolutionary People's Party [RVP].

The official address on the expulsion of the Cubans, announced on the day the U.S. with the military aid of the surrounding Caribbean countries invaded Grenada, is that they interfered too much with Surinam's internal affairs and that the government had an insufficient overall picture of it. Further, for the present, the Surinamers have to be satisfied with Bouterse's brief announcement that the expulsion of the Cubans had absolutely nothing to do with the American invasion of Grenada.

Almost no one wants to say anymore about it; it does indeed seem one of the biggest taboos. But people who are to some extent knowledgeable about the relations between the two political parties, the RVP and the Progressive laborers and farmers union Palu, say that the interference with "internal relations" in all probability is an allusion made to the relations with the RVP.

Briefly said, the Palu is strongly nationalistic and supporter of the so-called Brazil-line, and the RVP is ideologically very strongly orientated towards Cuba.

When Suriname and Cuba opened diplomatic negotiations and a Cuban embassy was opened in Paramaribo under the administration of Bouterse (Suriname did not do so in Havana), the RVP strove strongly to bring as many Cubans to Suriname as possible for development projects, but also for political cadre training. Quite a few Surinamers went to study in Havana. The leading figures of the RVP, amongst them two ministers in the Errol Alibux cabinet (a Palu man), were very frequent guests of the Cuban ambassador Victor Cardenas.

The result was that everything that was being discussed in the administration colleges of Suriname, not seldom in strict confidence, was known in all its details that same day by Cardenas.

#### Unpleasant

That, Bouterse and Prime Minister Alibux found a most unpleasant circumstance. Already a long time before the American/Caribbean intervention in Grenada, plans were being worked out to put an end to this situation. One thing was clear: it was not the Cubans themselves who took advantage of Surinam hospitality, it seems much more to have been the fault of the enthusiastic Surinam friends of the Cubans, who are to be found mainly in the RVP.

The Surinam leaders had the choice: either to declare the RVP as illegal or to expel the Cubans. The former would too publicly have put the very well trained cadres of the revolution out of the game, with as a possible result that they would turn against the "revolution." In practice this would mean a heavy bleeding for the ideological infrastructure of Bouterse's revolutionary process, something he cannot permit himself under the present circumstances.

The only alternative was: to expel the Cubans. Thus Bouterse killed three birds with one stone. He thus won some sympathy from Washington, important for possible financial aid, but he also won the public support and the RVP was put in its place.

The Surinamese ambassador to the Netherlands, Henk Herrenberg, went to Havana to explain to the Cuban leaders what was the motive of Paramaribo for the sudden sharp limitation of relations. According to people close to the Surinam leading top, Herrenberg hardly had the opportunity to do so in Havana.

People at the top refused to receive him. The only official reaction came from the Cuban prime minister who ironically remarked that the most original reaction to the American-Caribbean intervention in Grenada had come from Suriname. In other words: we are not angry but we do not completely understand that man Bouterse.

People in Paramaribo knowledgeable about Cuba claim that Havana politics in the meantime is so adult "that it would never be so stupid" to overplay its hand in Suriname, by which act it would in fact create that threat which could lead to the expulsion of the Cubans. In the Cubans have indeed done things in Surinam which might not bear the light of day, so continues the reasoning of authorities on Cuba, then Bouterse would not have had much trouble naming one or two of those anyway.

The shock of the RVP members was great when they quite unexpectedly heard Bouterse declare to television that the Cubans had to leave. But pragmatic as they are, the RVP members did not protest because that would have meant betrayal of Bouterse's revolution and then their role personally would be completely finished. The party already insisted that the nomination be lifted in connection with the proclamation of the united movement.

The result of the rift, although it is not a total one, is that in RVP bulwarks, especially in education, one does not speak as a matter of course about "the" revolution, because here that means that politically little clearly substructured revival movement of Bouterse, but about "revolution" as such.

A third factor which, at least so one hopes, is to the advantage of Bouterse's popularity with the Surinamers, is that with the expulsion of the Cubans the Surinamer, who in general is very anticommunistic, is less worried about the course the revolution will be taking.

The Cubans have with this all indeed learned a lesson: do not let yourself be seduced into being too emphatically present in Uncle Sam's "backyard" because a certain sympathizing political trend likes to see that in the framework of its fight for political influence within a certain revival process of anti-colonial and anti-imperialistic nature. After Grenada and Suriname, Havana will for the time being have to deal with co-religionist Nicaragua within the Caribbean area.

The Cubans in the meantime await the developments in Suriname from a distance, in the knowledge that RVP circles may perhaps, early or late, set a course towards the political revival process in which they as Cubans can participate. Bouterse, such has become evident, is for Havana for the time being too uncertain a factor.

12429

CSO: 3214/106

## FORMER BOUTERSE ADVISOR ON CUBAN, BRAZILIAN TIES

Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 7 Dec 83 p 3

[Interview with Mr Rudy Kross by editor Frans van Klaveren: "For the Umpteenth Time Bouterse Is Playing With the Tiger's Beard. Kross, Former Advisor of Army Leader, Expects Intervention of United States in Suriname after Brazilian Initiative"; date and place of interview not given; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in italics]

[Text] Rudy Kross (45), Surinamer by birth, worked for many years as a journalist in The Netherlands, among others for the Algemeen Handelsblad. During the Seventies, he resided for four years in Suriname, as journalist and as advocate of the trade union. After a long stay in The Netherlands, he returned to Suriname some years ago as advisor of army leader Bouterse "in an attempt to correct the course." Some months ago, Kross left Suriname and settled in Europe.

Amsterdam, 7 December -- Explosions and wanton arson in radio stations, in printing-offices and in a union building, followed by the shooting to death of fifteen critics of the Bouterse regime, put an end to the innocence of Suriname last year. After three years of military rule, former sergeant and sports instructor Desi Bouterse has paid the small change "in cash," which he had promised his adversaries.

In the four years which the military rule has not lasted, Suriname has drifted into the international force field. The probability exists that Suriname will not survive the developments as a sovereign state. Already before the coup on 25 February, Suriname writer Rudy Kross reckoned with that possibility. Now, he thinks the perspectives even gloomier.

Two months ago, Kross left his country, which he served in a prominent position in numerous offices, among others as advisor of Bouterse in an attempt to "correct the course", leaving behind a number of murdered friends. At one time an admirer of the Cuban revolution, he says, after his personal experiences in Paramaribo with the behavior of the Cubans: "They are trash. They are a curse in the Caribbean region."



"It is a peculiar datum in world politics at this moment, that precisely very small, insignificant regions turn out to occupy such an important position on the international geopolitical map, that it induces the great powers to undertake actions. Because of this, it is so much the worse when within the countries, regimes come into being that apparently have not gained the sense to see in what kind of a dangerous position they are, and who think they can commit exploits which terribly endanger the fate of the people living there. Can you call it revolutionary when people run in such a stupid way directly towards their doom, with their heads stuck out? And not just their own heads, they take other people's heads along, too.

"We have been close to the moment that Suriname would have been put under the guardianship of Brazil. Maybe that would have happened with a different man than Figueiredo on the presidential chair. It could be that the Americans, as in the case of Grenada, have the intention to take Suriname into custody after four awkward years. That means that you stop existing as an independent state. That is the crime of the people who have seized power. For this reason alone already, commemorating the victims of last year is important".

"The point is not just sadness, and not being able to get over the fact that they have wasted my best friends and that I, probably because of a fluke, got off scot-free. The point is to realize that they paid with their lives for an honest attempt to make known that we want to have an orderly democratic society. I think that this sacrifice should not be in vain. If Daal and Slagveer did not judge the situation correctly at that time -- if their political insight showed gaps -- then they did that out of their innocence. It precisely testifies to their pureness."

"The Cubans have put the developments of last year, when a spontaneous coalition of democratizing forces came into being, in a framework for Bouterse. They said: This is a counterrevolutionary movement, which will sweep you away, if it is not suppressed".

"I have heard testimonies from people who were present at the blowing up of the printing-office. They told me that on that occasion, orders have been given in Spanish by men in blue overalls, as we knew the Cubans. I myself have seen how the Cubans, during the weeks beforehand, brought large amounts of weapons and ammunition into the country by way of a ship that was unloaded with small boats. From people whom I dare trust I have heard that there were depots at the river, insofar as the Cuban embassy was not used for that purpose.

"The arrogance of the Cuban ambassador, Cardenas, and his wife was unbelievable. They walked around like the ultimate governors. At the department where I worked, I received a note from Mr Cardenas, in which he wrote what we had to supply all the information he asked for. With propaganda, the Cubans have attempted to introduce a psychosis in society with delusions about mercenary armies, for which the atrocities of such soldiers was enlarged upon with movies".

In the beginning of this year, suddenly a Brazilian airplane landed in Paramaribo with an unannounced party, which pointed out to Bouterse, in a way that could not be misunderstood, what would be the consequences of a Cuban course.



Kross: "The diplomatic raid of Brazil in April made it clear in which serious position Suriname had come to find itself. The Brazilians -- I was in Brazil for the government at that moment -- had not chosen that mission for themselves, but acted under heavy pressure from the Americans. America did not want to intervene itself, and instructed Brazil to put an end to the development with Cuba. The Brazilians appeared to be disposed to very far-reaching cooperation. At the moment at which agreement was reached within the working groups, the affair was torpedoed on the part of Suriname by the top. A small edge of intentions remained. It has then been made clear to the Americans by Brazil that if they wanted to go further, they had better do it themselves.

"I think, that the Americans have then concluded that the Brazilian initiative has not been successful, and that now interventions are being done in a much more direct way. The last visit that Bouterse and Alibux paid to America this fall, resulted in a very clear message to them. One: get the Cubans out; two: a movement internally in the direction of democratization.

"Number one has been carried out, number two has to be effected. And what does Bouterse do instead of this? He creates a national unitary movement which precludes political pluriformity. He maintains a declaration of policy in which it says: the next 6 years there will be no discussing about a constitution. In short, for the umpteenth time people are playing with the tiger's beard. I am not saying that Suriname, whoever may be in power, should submit to bold pressure from outside, but you should handle it sensibly, according to your powers.

There are people who think that it is still possible to negotiate with Bouterse.

Kross: "Bouterse has been taken over, himself, by people who have come out from the wings after the revolt of February 1980. Up until this moment, he clearly can not do without the initiatives, the inspirations and the machinations of the Palu (Progressive Workers and Farmers Union) group.

"The RVP (Revolutionary People's Party) was of a different use to him. It supplied, earlier and clearer than the Palu group can do this, the ideological aspect, the ideological explanation of the revolution, and this in such a way that he became a convert. I really still see him sitting and reading in little books, and asking me to write pieces for him in order to explain what socialism is. And that he then found so elucidating that he thought it the right reading material for his entire army cadre. Because, so he said, I want an army of socialists.

"The RVP gave him the connection with Cuba, after he had thrown the Cubans out of the country already two times before. It gave him fame. He was admitted to the ranks of revolutionary leaders in the world, and the Cubans have begun to have their very cynical way with an essentially gullible army sergeant, who wanted to become assistant minister for sports in the first cabinet of Chin A Sen, while he had a country in the palm of his hand.

"People like Slagveer have made it clear to him at that time, that it would be a farce if he were to accept such a post. Slagveer will have realized this during his last moments, and the times that he saved Bouterse's life. Just like Eddy Hoost must have thought back to the negotiations about independence in 1974-1975, when he moved heaven and earth for the Netherlands to make an army overnight. Because at that time already, people were warning against that time bomb."

"Until about the middle of 1982, there was just cause to assume that one could cooperate with Bouterse, that with much patience, ways could be found to gradually get a process moving in the country, in which the execution of the sovereignty rights would come into the hands where they belonged. That dream has vanished.

"And who at this moment still thinks in terms of a compromise is misleading himself, because one keeps for whatever reason the illusion alive, that Bouterse is still prepared to share power. If he does at times make gestures in that direction, then this is purely for his self-preservation and in order to retain the position which he has. There is no sense at all in thinking that together with the army under Bouterse -- and, for that matter, with any army -- a more acceptable future can be headed for. That is 'out of order'".

How does one get the army out?

"I don't want to blow bubbles about that. We must get rid of the army. I don't know if that definitely signifies whether only an armed counterinsurrection can offer any way out. I do want that something of that calibre will free society of the cancer which is active in it now. Not only because the army has introduced violence as a means of control, but also because it has turned out to be susceptible to manipulation by antidemocratic forces, by fascism, really".

"I will never be able to welcome an intervention from outside Suriname as such. But I do not say NO to a development, because of which one evil fights the other. I welcome any development which gets the Suriname people out of its hostage situation. I know that the Americans will be greeted as liberators, like they were on Grenada. That the sidewalks will be black with people, and that people will cut up their underwear to make flags out of it. These really are difficult mental choices."

And suspend development cooperation permanently?

Kross: "One of the most appreciated gestures which The Netherlands ever has made with regard to Suriname is stopping the finances, as determined by treaty in 1975. At at this moment, the man in the street hopes that The Netherlands will not get it into its head to start that development cooperation again as long as this regime is there. The money belongs to me as Surinamer. It does not reach me directly, but via state institutions, the government.

"The argument is correct, that The Netherlands should not put that development aid at the disposal of a group that turns out to act against the interests of the people. But a mistake has been made by The Netherlands. It can not unilaterally and temporarily terminate the treaty, without attaching the consequence to this, that also the diplomatic relations with such a country are severed.

"You can't do two things that are contrary to one another. You can't decide to independently put an end to the aid because you think that your partner is an illegal one, and at the same time maintain a full diplomatic staff in that country."

What about the flexibility of the old political parties?

Kross: "Latently they are still alive. Precisely because of the experiences of the past years, there is a large core of people, who have grown to believe more staunchly in old political alternatives. If ever a so-called revolution has worked contrary to its goals, then it surely is this one. The machines of the parties they have been able to damage, but if a resurrection is made possible, it will result in the parties completely functioning again".

And so, back to the bad situation of before 1980?

Kross: "That situation was not the fruit of the actions of individuals. It was a symptom of the political underdevelopment of the country. The revolution has brought no change in this, but it has indeed deepened that crisis and made it more miserable. The so-called revolution has taken away from the people the crooked stick with which they moved through social life, that is, the old patronage structures, and has given in its place a greater invalidation.

"There is therefore, then, no single expectation possible that if, for instance, the present situation were to change abruptly, with this, also the causes of the crisis and the concomitant symptoms are wiped away. Suriname will therefore for the time being not get out of this misery. The conditions have to change, and that doesn't go just like that".

In The Netherlands, a little book has just been published, The December Murders. Is the image, that is sketched in there, correct?

Kross: "It is, as far as I have been able to determine, correct in the main lines. You always should be careful when you have not been an eyewitness yourself. But I have spoken with people who have been present there, or who had had to listen to heart-rending confessional stories. From two people, who had become mentally adrift because they had been involved with the executions I have, independently from one another, heard things. In any case, the names have been mentioned of Alibux and Krolis. Krolis is said to have walked away, Alibux has been in the fort until the end.

"Bouterse has praised him publicly for the support which he gave precisely in those days. My further information says that Bouterse directed the whole affair, and that a personal revenge has taken place which he had promised to particularly Slagveer, Daal, Hoost, Rambocus, and Sheombar".

Once more, how does one get rid of the army?

Kross: I think that there has just about come an end to the extreme reserve with respect to Suriname. The question is: What force does the United States exercise. If it does exercise force in the most extreme form, it will be over and done with by tomorrow morning. I foresee in Suriname a spreading instability, still more need to go and dominate the community with terror, still more uncertainty and fear in the military. A Bouterse in that situation is a bandit.

"On the other hand he can suddenly surprise the world, but not me, by taking to his heels. I believe that there is a foundation of truth in the allegation that proposals should have been made to Bouterse to buy his absence with money. His boat is lying ready at the fort, and can leave the mouth of the Suriname River at any moment".

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CSO: 3214/105

## BRIEFS

MILITARY POLICE CHIEF PROMOTED--Yesterday morning, Second Lieutenant Lieuw Yen Tay was promoted to First Lieutenant. This promotion was carried out by Captain Graanoogst, the chief of staff of the National Army. Lieutenant Lieuw Yen Tay thanked the command of the National Army for the confidence put in him. These acknowledgements extended themselves to the staff of the Military Police, on whose cooperation and support he always has been able to count fully. Lieutenant Lieuw Yen Tay is known to be chief of the Military Police. (National Information Service) [Text] [Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 3 Nov 1983 p 1] 12568

BOUTERSE MEETS TRADE UNION LEADERS--Having been invited to do so, the chairmen of the four trade unions, Messrs Fred Derby, Hendrik Sylvester, Frederik van Russel, and Ramon Cruden, have had a two-hour talk with the chairman of the Policy Center, Lt Col Desi Bouterse. This meeting took place on Monday, 31 October last. Among other things, the general political situation came up for discussion. Commander Bouterse has in general elucidated the aspects of this subject. The trade unions, which have reacted to this, called the meeting very clarifying. It has been decided, that ways will be searched for to structure this kind of talks between the command of the country and the trade unions. A subject of the talk was also the responsibility of the trade union movement in society, and the activities it does in that framework. It is known that the leader of the revolution, Lt Col Bouterse, in his message beforehand, in the paper of the 25th of February Movement, has put great emphasis on the fact that an organization should come about, in which Surinamers can together give meaning to the motto of the movement, that is, "Unity in Production and Struggle," He said, literally: "The heart of this unity beats there, where the military vanguard becomes closely bound up with the bearers of our direct, national production, to wit, our laborers and farmers. This heart constitutes the pump which connects all other parts of our people, and which inspires them to continue the struggle." Both the trade union movement and the chairman of the Policy Center, Commander Bouterse, agreed that there should be a follow-up to this talk. (National Information Service) [Text] [Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 2 Nov 83 p 1] 12568

FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY CHANGES--On Tuesday, 1 November, J. H. Kolader, MA, has transferred from his position as Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to another top position at this ministry, namely to that of policy advisor for foreign relations, with the title of ambassador extraordinary

and plenipotentiary, charged especially with among others the region of Central America, the Caribbean, and the inspection of the posts abroad. At the same date, E. Amanh, has been appointed to director of Foreign Affairs. Mr Amanh, has been in the service of Foreign Affairs since 1977, and has worked at the embassy in Washington. [Text] [Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 2 Nov 83 p 1] 12568

GUDA NAMED AMBASSADOR TO UN--On Tuesday, 1 November 1983, at the presidential palace, Mr Henri Albert Maria Guda has taken the oath as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Suriname before Mr Fred Ramdat Misier, acting president of the Republic of Suriname. He will represent our country at the United Nations. The oath-formula was read by the director of Interior Affairs, Mr Philip Akrum. The ceremony, which took place in the office of the head of state, was attended by Prime Minister Errol Alibux, in his capacity of minister of Foreign Affairs, the acting director of Foreign Affairs, Mr Edgar Amanh, JD, and the director of the presidential staff, Mr Fedor Dover. In a short speech, the Suriname head of state congratulated the newly sworn-in envoy, and said that he was confident, because of the extensive experience abroad, which Mr Guda has gained, that he will certainly succeed in his mission. Mr Guda was last director of Finance, and from 1974 until 1978, secretary-general of the International Bauxite Association--IBA--, posted at Kingston, Jamaica. Mr Guda has been a member of several negotiation committees, among others of the Bauxite Committee; committees for bilateral cooperation treaties among others with Brazil, Belgium, Guyana and Venezuela, and the Air Traffic Negotiation Committee. He represented our country at various international conferences. On Friday, 4 November next, the new ambassador leaves for New York, where he will take up his duties as permanent representative at the United Nations. (National Information Service) [Text] [Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 2 Nov 83 p 1] 12568

GUYANESE CHURCH LEADER VISITS SURINAME--The vicar-general of the Anglican Church in Guyana, the Reverend Derek H. Goodrich, is paying a week long visit to Suriname. During his visit, Mr Goodrich will exchange views with church leaders in Suriname. Vicar-General Goodrich will stay with the Roman Catholic fathers at the Gravenstraat. Vicar-General Goodrich was born in England, and studied theology at St Stephen's House in Oxford, England. Has served as deacon in London, from 1952 until 1957. In 1957, the vicar-general came to Guyana, where he worked at St Sidwell's in Georgetown, until 1967. From 1967 until 1971, he worked as vicar at St Joseph's in Port Mourant. Since 1971, the vicar has New Amsterdam as his post. Under his direction, four new churches have been built. At St Bridget's church in Paramaribo, the vicar held his first service during a previous visit to Suriname. [Text] [Paramaribo DE WARE TIJD in Dutch 24 Nov 83 p 12] 12568

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